



ITEM ID: 2024-134-0

TRANSMITTAL DATE: March 22, 2024

MEETING DATE: March 29, 2024

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Arnold Hackett, Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: Purchase Order No. MTL2405454 - Railroad Frogs - Recommendation to Award - Voestalpine Nortrak Inc.

Issue

The Authority's Materials Management Division requires Railroad Frogs for the Authority's Maintenance of Way inventory replenishment.

Recommendation

Contracts, Operations, Maintenance and Safety Committee recommended (4-0) the Board authorize the CEO to award Purchase Order (PO) MTL2405454 for count 14 of eight different types of Railroad Frogs to Voestalpine Nortrak Inc. in a total not-to-exceed amount of \$595,980.03. This is a one-time purchase.

Strategic Commitment

The report aligns with the Strategic Business Plan commitment of:

- **Modernizing Business Practices:** We will improve our operational efficiency, through transparency, objective metrics and streamlined governance, reducing reliance on subsidy while bringing our system into a state of good repair and investing in the development of our employees. This Purchase Order for new Railroad Frogs ensures that Metrolink's system is maintained in a state of good repair.

Background

A frog is a special part of a train track that allows wheels on one rail to cross over to the other

rail. It provides support for the wheels and has passageways for the wheel flanges (see representative pictures in the attached presentation). This helps trains move smoothly at intersections and is a very important component of a switch. This Purchase Order will ensure that the Materials Management department maintains appropriate inventory on hand to support scheduled and unscheduled maintenance on Metrolink's track system.

Discussion

The Authority received 2 bids from Progress Rail Services and Voestalpine Nortrak Inc. Staff conducted a responsiveness and responsibility check after the bids were received. The lowest bidder, Progress Rail's submission was deemed to be non-responsive.

As shown below, the remaining bidder Voestalpine Nortrak Inc.'s bid was \$18,029.17 (3.1%) higher than the Independent Cost Estimate (ICE). The amounts include applicable sales tax. With consideration of the market situation, with increases in raw materials pricing and freight costs, staff considered Voestalpine Nortrak Inc.'s bid within the acceptable range.

	ICE	Voestalpine Nortrak Inc	Difference
Total	\$576,001.46	\$595,980.03	3.1%

Therefore, Voestalpine Nortrak Inc.'s bid is deemed fair and reasonable.

Budget Impact

The funds requested for this purchase order have been included in the proposed Maintenance of Way Operating budget for Fiscal Year 2025.

Next Steps

Upon award, Staff will issue a one-time PO MTL2405454 to Voestalpine Nortrak Inc. for Railroad Frogs for the Authority's inventory replenishment in an amount not-to-exceed of \$595,980.03.

Prepared by: Arisa Hicks, Contract Specialist
Dorothea Cantero, Senior Contract & Compliance Administrator
Eduardo Tovar, Manager II, Inventory Control

Approved by: Arnold Hackett, Chief Financial Officer

Attachment(s)

[Presentation - MTL2405454 Railroad Frogs](#)