



ITEM ID: 2023-195-0

TRANSMITTAL DATE: December 1, 2023

MEETING DATE: December 8, 2023

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Arnold Hackett, Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: Purchase Order No. PO941-24 - Grapple and Lubrication Trucks - Recommendation to Award - Custom Truck & Equipment, LLC

Issue

The Authority requires new trucks for the maintenance of its Right of Way (ROW). The two grapple trucks are needed to replace existing aging vehicles which have reached their end of service life. The lubrication truck is needed to lubricate equipment along the ROW, including switches and rail.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to award Purchase Order No. PO941-24 to Custom Truck One Source, L.P. dba Custom Truck & Equipment, LLC (Custom Truck), for the purchase of two grapple trucks and one lubrication truck, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$1,124,147.81. The award is subject to resolution of any timely filed protests.

Strategic Commitment

This report aligns with the Strategic Business Plan commitment of:

- **Safety is Foundational:** We will stay on the leading edge by deploying new technologies and processes to enhance the safety and security of our riders, our fellow employees, and the communities we serve. The Grapple Trucks will support maintenance work along the Authority's ROW. The Lubrication Truck will help the

Authority maintain its track infrastructure in a state of good repair.

Background

The Authority has identified one aging grapple truck and a need to purchase a new lube truck and another grapple truck. To meet its railroad maintenance obligations, the Authority will replace a 12-year-old grapple truck with 200,000 miles and add one to support additional rail infrastructure built as part of the Authority's Southern California Optimized Rail Expansion (SCORE) program. The lube truck is needed to provide bulk grease and lubricants to the lubricating equipment along the ROW. Currently this task is handled with the use of pails and takes substantially longer to perform compared to dispensing it with a lube truck using an on-board dispenser. This lube truck will add efficiency, lower the cost of performing this task, and eliminate the need to lift heavy pails in the uneven terrain.

The Authority has considered several options to include these vehicles in its fleet. The option to lease is costly and/or impractical given the special nature of the equipment. Extensive research was done to identify zero emission or alternative fuel vehicles that can be used, including staff attendance at the Advanced Clean Transportation (ACT) Expo in Anaheim. Unfortunately, zero emission or alternative fuel trucks are currently not available in the market. A previous procurement effort that included these 2 grapple trucks with ePTO (battery driven Power Take-Off system) yielded no bids. Thus, this option was removed from the vehicles during current procurement. The 2 grapple trucks will have a Tier 4 emissions diesel engine and will operate on renewable diesel where possible. The lube truck will operate on gasoline fuel.

On November 16, 2023, the Authority received approval for an Invisibility Certificate from South Coast AQMD for the two grapple trucks as part of Rule 1196 (Clean On-Road Heavy-Duty Public Fleet Vehicles). The purchase of the two grapple trucks was contingent upon AQMD approval. There is no such contingency associated with the purchase of the lubrication truck.

Discussion

On October 2, 2023, the Authority published Invitation for Bids (IFB) No. PO941-24 on its online procurement portal and notifications were sent to 1082 registered firms. The solicitation was also advertised in publications in the five member counties and in diversity newspapers. Eighteen firms downloaded the solicitation; and the Authority received and responded to four questions during the Questions & Answers period.

Three bids were received by the November 6, 2023, deadline:

- Custom Truck One Source
- Auto Truck Group, LLC
- Omaha Track Equipment LLC

Bidders were given the flexibility to bid on one or more of the listed trucks. All bidders submitted bids for each truck requested.

Model	Qty	Independent Cost Estimate	Custom Truck One Source	Auto Truck Group	Omaha Track Equipment
Grapple Trucks	2	\$891,200.00	\$801,484.00	\$837,332.00	\$918,078.00
Lubrication Truck	1	\$263,000.00	\$225,135.00	\$268,825.00	\$284,140.00
Bid Total		\$1,154,200.00	\$1,026,619.00	\$1,106,157.00	\$1,202,218.00
Over/Under ICE			-11.05%	-4.16%	4.16%
Use Tax			\$97,528.81	\$105,084.92	\$114,210.71
Total Commitment			\$1,124,147.81	\$1,211,241.92	\$1,316,428.71

Staff has determined that Custom Truck's bid of \$1,026,619.00, the lowest bid received for all requested trucks, was 11.05% below the Independent Cost Estimate (ICE). Furthermore, Staff determined that Custom Truck is a responsive and responsible bidder.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program

A DBE contract goal of 0% was established for this U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) assisted contract. All bidders were deemed responsive by the DBE Consultant.

Budget Impact

The amounts for which contract authority is requested are included in the Adopted Capital Budgets for FY2016-17 and FY2021-22 (\$1,124,147.81).

Next Steps

Upon Board approval of this recommendation, Staff will issue a Purchase Order to Custom Truck for one lubrication and two grapple trucks. As these vehicles have a long lead time, the vehicles will be delivered to the Authority's Central Maintenance Facility (CMF) within 16 Months.

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Approved by: Arnold Hackett, Chief Financial Officer