SEDGWICK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1
ITEMS REQUIRING BOCC APPROVAL
September 4, 2025
(1 Item)

1. COMPRESSORS -- FIRE DISTRICT 1

FUNDING -- FIRE DIST. ADMIN

(Joint Government Purchase - League of Oregon Cities Contract #PS20095)

#25-2080 S/C 8000254282

	Conrad Fire Equipment, Inc.		
Bauer Compressors	Qty	Unit Price	**Total**
1. Vertecon 10HP 13 SCFM 3 Phase	3	$29,073.00	**$87,219.00**
2. CO Monitor	3	$4,560.00	**$13,680.00**
3. Electronic Pur. Mon. System	3	$520.00	**$1,560.00**
4. Compressor Startup Service	3	$1,500.00	**$4,500.00**
5. Freight	3	$4,000.00	**$12,000.00**
Total			**$118,959.00**

On the recommendation of Tammy Culley, on behalf of Fire District 1 (SCFD 1), Brandi Baily moved to **establish a contract with Conrad Fire Equipment, Inc. for an initial purchase of $118,959.00 utilizing the League of Oregon Cities Contract #PS20095 good through April 17, 2026.** Tim Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SCFD 1 is planning to purchase three (3) Bauer air compressors. These air compressors will be used to fill cascade systems that the stations use to fill self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) cylinders.

This purchase will significantly reduce the cost to replace the existing Mobile Air 37 (MA37) at a cost of approximately $1,500,000.00. As the need to replace the current MA37 approaches in a few years, smaller lower cost apparatus will be specified without a breathing air compressor and used to get cylinders to large incidents and refill them. The expectation would be to save at least $500,000.00 on the replacement of a lower cost apparatus without the compressor and large generator to run it.

SCFD 1 currently uses the MA37 to fill cascades for the six (6) stations that do not have a compressor on site. The Mobile Air truck is a large fire apparatus. Driving to each station to fill the cascade costs approximately $120.00 per day in fuel as well as normal wear and tear on the truck. In most cases this takes a unit off track because we have to take one person from Station 37 to go to each station to fill their cascade. This occurs at least once per week and takes an entire day. This also impacts training options for Station 37 crews when they have to send one of the five (5) crew members out to fill cascades.

Questions and Answers

Greg Gann: Could someone explain the line about how this significantly reduces the cost to replace the existing Mobile Air 37 at a cost of approximately $1.5 million?

Kevin Nelson: Currently we have that Mobile Air truck and we estimate that it would cost more than $500.000.00 to replace that so this is an alternate solution if we put compressors in our stations we can fill the cascades without having to drive a 1 million dollar truck all the way across the county to do it, without taking someone off of a crew out of a station to do that. So we're coming up with another solution instead of having a large fire apparatus that drives to each station to fill cascades, we're just going to have a way to fill those cascades there and not have to drive that truck all around the county.

Greg Gann: I have a follow up question, can you better explain what a cascade is?

Kevin Nelson: So what a cascade is for us is a set up with four (4) large compressed air bottles all plumbed together so we can fill those and then from those we actually fill our SCBA bottles. So these compressors that we are getting will fill the cascades, they won't directly fill bottles but there are 6,000 psi bottles and there are four (4) of them and we can fill probably a couple dozen bottles from each full cascade.

Philip Davolt: You mentioned you have six (6) stations that don't have these but you are only getting three (3) of them this time.

Kevin Nelson: We thought about trying to buy all 6 (six) of them at one (1) time but buying 3 (three) puts us in a much better spot. The way that we are going to place these we'll never have anybody that is more that one (1) station away from a compressor. We're not putting one (1) out in Andale right now but that crew can run into Maize or Goddard and they can fill bottles there. At some point we will probably be back for the other three (3) and potentially more. We have have an older one (1) at Station 38 that will have to be replaced so we'll probably purchase four (4) at some point in the future. This puts us in a much better spot and we won't have to drive Mobile Air all over the county to do it.

Philip Davolt: So that will lengthen the life of the Mobile Air as well?

Kevin Nelson: Yes.

Tania Cole: So you are basically seeing a savings in operations in this but also seeing there is the ability for you to have access to this nearby long-term.

Kevin Nelson: Correct. All of this savings comes from not replacing Mobile Air 37 as is. We'll come up with another solution whether it is a pickup truck, a flat bed with a bunch of already full bottles, or a cascade system on a flat bed that we can take to a large incident. We haven't determined exactly what that solution is but we know enough that we're not going to replace Mobile Air for over 1 million dollars, so spending approximately $40K on a cascade system seems to be a better use of taxpayer dollars.

Brandi Baily: What is the life expectancy of these compressors?

Kevin Nelson: I don't know technically what the life expectancy is. I know that we have a Bauer air compressor at Station 38 that is over 20 years old.

Brandi Baily: We're not using that currently to fill with?

Kevin Nelson: We use it at Station 38.

Brandi Baily: So you do use it.

Kevin Nelson: And that is the old one that at some point will probably be back asking to replace it. They do last quite a long time, probably longer than an apparatus would last. I can get an actual warranty or expected lifetime if I need to.