



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

GREG COX
First District

DIANNE JACOB
Second District

PAM SLATER
Third District

RON ROBERTS
Fourth District

BILL HORN
Fifth District

DATE: February 10, 2004

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: Acquisition of A Fire and Life Safety Helicopter (District: All)

SUMMARY:

Overview

On December 9, 2003 (7), at the request of Supervisor Roberts and Supervisor Horn, your Board directed the Chief Administrative Officer to explore the creation of a governing body that would oversee the operation of a fire and life safety helicopter. Your Board also directed the Chief Administrative Officer to explore funding options to acquire, staff and maintain a fire and life safety helicopter that would be permanently based in San Diego County.

If approved by your Board, the actions recommended in this letter would establish a five member governing body to oversee the operation of a fire and life safety helicopter to be permanently based in San Diego County. In addition, this governing body will advise your Board on all topics related to the fire and life safety helicopter, including type of helicopter to be acquired and funding mechanisms. It is also recommended that the County provide funding in the amount of \$22,500 to the City of San Diego to pay for Phase II of the county-wide study to identify the needs of a regional fire-rescue helicopter program, as directed by the San Diego County Fire Chiefs Association. In addition, this letter recommends the establishment of appropriations in the amount of \$3.5 million to cover the acquisition cost for the fire and life safety helicopter. Finally, it is recommended that the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to return to the Board with appropriate recommendations to acquire and operate a fire and life safety helicopter.

Recommendation(s)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Approve introduction (first reading) of ordinance: read title and waive further reading of ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE ADDING ARTICLE IIIs TO THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ESTABLISHING A FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY HELICOPTER OPERATING COUNCIL.

SUBJECT: Acquisition of A Fire and Life Safety Helicopter (District: All)

2. Submit ordinance for further Board consideration and adoption (second reading) on February 24, 2004.
3. Request that each member of the Board of Supervisors submit the nomination of one fire-fighting professional to serve on the Fire and Life Safety Helicopter Operating Council to be considered for appointment at the Board meeting of February 24, 2004.
4. Authorize the expenditure of \$22,500 from budgeted funds within the Public Safety Group Executive Office to the City of San Diego to pay for Phase II of the county-wide study to identify the needs of a regional fire-rescue helicopter program (Conklin and de Decker study).
5. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to return to the Board 45 days after completion of Phase II of the county-wide study to determine the needs of a regional fire-rescue helicopter program with appropriate recommendations to acquire and operate a fire and life safety helicopter within the County of San Diego.
6. Establish appropriations of \$3.5 million in the Public Safety Group Executive Office for the acquisition of a fire and life safety helicopter, based on overrealized General Fund fund balance. (4 Votes)

Fiscal Impact

A portion of the funds for this request (\$22,500) is budgeted within the Public Safety Group Executive Office. The funds for the acquisition of the helicopter (\$3.5 million) are not budgeted. If this request is approved, it will result in current year costs of \$3,522,500 and annual operating costs estimated to be \$2 million. The funding source for the operating costs has not yet been identified, but will be included in the FY 2004-06 CAO Proposed Operational Plan. The funding source for this request is General Purpose Revenue.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

BACKGROUND:

On December 9, 2003 (7), at the request of Supervisor Roberts and Supervisor Horn, your Board directed the Chief Administrative Officer to explore the creation of a governing body that would oversee the operation of a fire and life safety helicopter. Your Board also directed the Chief Administrative Officer to explore funding options to acquire, staff and maintain a fire and life safety helicopter that would be permanently based in San Diego County.

Establishment of the Fire and Life Safety Helicopter Operating Council

It is recommended that a five member Fire and Life Safety Helicopter Operating Council be established, and that each member of your Board appoint one fire-fighting professional to serve on this Council. The purpose of this Council is to advise your Board on all matters pertaining to

SUBJECT: Acquisition of A Fire and Life Safety Helicopter (District: All)

the fire and life safety helicopter, including the most cost-effective type of helicopter, staffing issues, funding options, etc.

Input to Council discussions will be sought from members of the San Diego County Fire Chiefs Association, San Diego City Fire Department, California Department of Forestry, United States Forest Service, the military, the San Diego Sheriff's Department and other resources that could provide expertise as to the aerial fire fighting needs of the region. Areas of discussion would include type of aircraft, the maintenance program, pilot qualifications, program management, and recruitment/retention.

The Council will be convened as soon as possible following completion of Board member appointments.

San Diego Regional Fire and Rescue Aviation Fleet Plan Analysis (Conklin & de Decker study)

The Conklin and de Decker study was commissioned to examine the requirements for a fire and rescue aviation fleet for the San Diego region. Phase I of this study was completed on January 19, and the report was released on January 28. A copy of this report has been provided to the office of each Supervisor. Highlights from the Phase I report include:

- Type II helicopters offer the most reasonable solution for the region's aviation plans. Type II helicopters are those that deliver approximately 400 gallons of water or fire retardant per drop.
- Three Type II helicopters that have the ability not only to fight fires but also to provide a platform to perform a variety of missions (i.e., personnel and equipment transport, rescue, and medical aid) would best serve the region of San Diego.
- An inventory of aviation resources operated by government agencies in the San Diego region.

It is recommended that the County pay the City of San Diego \$22,500 to cover the cost of Phase II of this study, which will take up to 15 weeks to complete. This second phase will address such issues as helicopter specifications, site selection, maintenance, pilots, program administration and oversight, funding options and an analysis of contracting for pilots and mechanics versus hiring these professionals.

Acquisition and Operation of the Fire and Life Safety Helicopter

Following appropriate study and discussion of available information regarding the fire and life safety helicopter, including both phases of the Conklin and de Decker study, the Fire and Life Safety Helicopter Operating Council will make recommendations regarding all factors affecting the acquisition and operation of this helicopter. Staff will return to your Board with these recommendations 45 days after completion of Phase II of the Conklin and de Decker study.

Assuming that the County acquires a used Type II helicopter, the acquisition costs are estimated to be in the range of \$1.5 million to \$3.5 million. The annual operating costs for such a helicopter, including pilots and airborne fire-fighting crew are estimated to be in the range of \$1.5 million to \$2.0 million. This letter includes a recommendation to establish appropriations of

SUBJECT: Acquisition of A Fire and Life Safety Helicopter (District: All)

\$3.5 million in the Public Safety Group Executive Office to acquire the County fire and life safety helicopter. Also, \$2.0 million will be included in the FY 2004-06 CAO Proposed Operational Plan for annual operating expenses for this helicopter.

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

The recommended actions in this board letter support the Safe and Livable Communities Initiative of the County by addressing the aerial fire fighting needs of the region that will help protect the citizens of the County from fire damage and loss.

Respectfully submitted,



W. HAROLD TUCK, JR.

WALTER F. EKARD
Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: Acquisition of A Fire and Life Safety Helicopter (District: All)

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

CONCURRENCE(S)

COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Written Disclosure per County Charter Section 1000.1 Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
GROUP/AGENCY FINANCE DIRECTOR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Requires Four Votes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
GROUP/AGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
COUNTY TECHNOLOGY OFFICE	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A

Other Concurrence(s): N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Public Safety Group

CONTACT PERSON(S):

<u>Leslie Luke</u>	<u>Rick Poggemeyer</u>
Name	Name
<u>619-531-4599</u>	<u>619-531-4538</u>
Phone	Phone
<u>619-232-2436</u>	<u>619-232-2436</u>
Phone	Phone
<u>A-65</u>	<u>A-65</u>
Fax	Fax
<u>A-65</u>	<u>A-65</u>
Fax	Fax
<u>Mail Station</u>	<u>Mail Station</u>
<u>Leslie.Luke@sdcounty.ca.gov</u>	<u>Rick.Poggemeyer@sdcounty.ca.gov</u>
Mail Station	Mail Station
<u>Leslie.Luke@sdcounty.ca.gov</u>	<u>Rick.Poggemeyer@sdcounty.ca.gov</u>
E-mail	E-mail
<u>Leslie.Luke@sdcounty.ca.gov</u>	<u>Rick.Poggemeyer@sdcounty.ca.gov</u>
E-mail	E-mail

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:

W. Harold Tuck, Jr.
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: Acquisition of A Fire and Life Safety Helicopter (District: All)

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET
(continued)

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

December 9, 2003 (7): Acquisition of a Fire and Life Safety Helicopter.

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

N/A

CONTRACT NUMBER(S):

N/A

SUBJECT: Acquisition of A Fire and Life Safety Helicopter (District: All)

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

DEPARTMENT: Public Safety Group

PROGRAM: Acquisition of A Fire and Life Safety Helicopter

PROPOSAL:

			FUTURE YEARS ESTIMATED BUDGET OF PROPOSAL IF ADOPTED	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Budgeted Amount For Proposal	Proposed Change in Budgeted Amount	Proposed Revised Current Year Budget (a+b)	1st Subsequent Year	2nd Subsequent Year
Direct Cost				
Revenue/Other Offset				
NET GENERAL FUND COST				
Staff Years				

Sources of Revenue/Other Offset for Proposed Change and Subsequent Years:

Space-Related Impacts: Will this proposal result in any additional space requirements? Yes N/A

Support/Other Departmental Impacts: Yes N/A

Remarks: Yes N/A