



Firefighting Personal Protective Bunker Gear

CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATION

MAY 6, 2024



What is Bunker Gear

Bunker gear, also known as turnout gear or personal protective equipment (PPE) for firefighters, is specialized clothing and equipment worn during firefighting and rescue operations. Its design aims to shield firefighters from various hazards encountered on duty, including heat, flames, sharp objects, chemicals, and contaminants. This gear is essential not only for firefighting but also for rescue operations like motor vehicle accidents and extrications.

Given its frequent use and exposure to chemicals, heat, fire products, and combustion by-products, bunker gear is susceptible to wear and tear. Additionally, the gear can become contaminated and may require thorough cleaning and decontamination to maintain its effectiveness and ensure firefighter safety.

NFPA 1851

Standard on Selection, Care, & Maintenance
of Protective Ensembles for Structural
Firefighting and Proximity Firefighting

Required by TCFP (Texas Commission on Fire Protection)

- **Maximum 10-Year Lifespan:** Determined from the date of manufacture.
- Several factors may shorten this lifespan, including:
 - Vendor Shelf Life
 - Wear and tear, along with incidental incidents
 - Deterioration of materials or components beyond economic repair (BER)
 - Excessive soil buildup that could impact the performance of the ensemble or its elements



Current Bunker Gear Purchase Plan

The Burleson Fire Department has traditionally purchased bunker gear annually as needed to replace gear that has reached the end of its service life or is economically unfeasible to repair.

In an effort to enhance cost-effectiveness and efficiency, we are proposing a three-year purchase plan utilizing the fire budget to procure the necessary replacements for our current staff

Replacement Plan

3-Year Frontline Use followed by 3-Year Backup Use (Total of 6 years in service)

- Every firefighter needs access to a backup set of bunker gear for use after a fire to ensure proper decontamination procedures for cleaning while being able to remain in service for the next incident
- Approximately one-third of the department is due for gear replacement annually

Challenges

- 15 new positions have been added since December 2022 and have not procured additional gear
- After 3 years of use, bunker gear must be disassembled for annual testing and subsequently sent off for repair
- Based on our experience, the gear typically reaches Beyond Economic Repair (BER) within 6 years, with repair costs being substantial in comparison to replacement



Cooperative Agreement

Vendor – Metro Fire apparatus Specialists Inc.

Cooperative Entity – BuyBoard - Contract # 698-23

Term - 3 years Expires 5-6-2027

Amount - \$330,000



Council Action Requested

Approve

- Staff recommends approval of a three-year contract with Metro Fire Apparatus Specialist, Inc. for the purchase of public safety & fire supplies, bunker gear and equipment in the amount of \$330,000
- Questions / Comments