


City Council Regular Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Burleson Fire/EMS
FROM: Casey Davis, Fire Chief
MEETING: May 18, 2026

SUBJECT:

Consider and take possible action on a contract with Professional Ambulance Sales & Service, dba SERVS for the purchase of (4) – F550 4x4 Diesel Horton 603 Ambulances in the amount of \$1,750,916.00. (Staff Contact: Casey Davis, Fire Chief and Mark Davies, Director of Finance)

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AND GOAL(S):

Strategic Priority	Strategic Goal
 <p>Beautiful, Safe, & Vibrant Community</p>	<p>3.3 Enhance emergency response services 3.4 Ensure public safety equipment and personnel needs are being met</p>

SUMMARY:

Staff requests Council consider and take possible action on a contract with Professional Ambulance Sales & Service (SERVS) for the purchase of four (4) F550 4x4 Diesel Horton 603 ambulances in the amount of \$1,750,916.00 through BuyBoard National Purchasing Cooperative Contract #745-24.

This purchase supports the planned replacement of four frontline ambulances placed in service in October 2023 and operating in a high-utilization, fire-based EMS system.

Based on current utilization trends, these units are projected to reach approximately six years of service by FY2029, with 129,000–160,000 miles and 9,300–12,300 engine hours. This exceeds recommended replacement benchmarks of five years or 150,000 miles. Additionally, the units will have greater than 8,000 hours of engine time. For context, one engine hour equates to roughly 30 miles of wear, further illustrating the accelerated lifecycle of these units.

Due to continuous EMS deployment and dual Fire/EMS use, these units experience above-average wear. The department is already observing early lifecycle issues with the Demers units, including suspension failures, increasing maintenance demands, and parts delays. Delaying replacement increases the risk of mechanical failure, reduces system reliability, and impacts both EMS response and fireground staffing.

The FY2028 CIP includes funding for ambulance and associated equipment replacement. With current ambulance build times at approximately 30 months, advance procurement is necessary to maintain the replacement schedule and avoid service gaps.

Based on current lead times, delivery of the new units is expected in late 2028 to early 2029. This places the replacement cycle approximately one year beyond the original five-year plan. Staff believes this timeline is appropriate, as it maximizes the use of the current fleet while ensuring replacement units are in service before more serious reliability becomes a significant concern.

Upon delivery of the new units, the department plans to work with Fleet to sell the existing Demers ambulances to capture remaining value at the appropriate point in their lifecycle.

As part of this transition, staff recommends moving to Horton ambulances to support fleet standardization, improved durability, enhanced safety features, and domestic manufacturing advantages. Additionally, staff recommends implementing a lifecycle strategy that includes remounting each unit at least twice. This approach is expected to reduce future replacement costs by approximately 30% per remount compared to purchasing new units, while maintaining operational reliability and safety.

This purchase is being made through BuyBoard Contract No. 745-24 in accordance with Texas Local Government Code Chapter 271, Subchapter F. Cooperative purchasing contracts are competitively solicited on behalf of multiple governmental entities, allowing the City to leverage volume pricing and improve procurement efficiency. Additionally, staff benchmarked the proposed pricing against recent ambulance purchases by peer agencies, including the Cities of Cleburne, Crowley, and Mansfield, for similarly sized and equipped units. Based on this comparison, staff determined that the proposed pricing is consistent with current market conditions and represents a competitive value to the City.

Staff recommends moving forward with the procurement of 4 Horton ambulances within the CIP.

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

Presented to Public Safety & Court Committee 4-8-2026

REFERENCE:

Insert CSO# if applicable
Insert resolution or ordinance change

FISCAL IMPACT:

Proposed Expenditure: \$1,750,916.00

Account Number(s):

Fund: CIP

Account Description:

Procurement Method: BuyBoard National Purchasing Cooperative Contract #745-24.

STAFF CONTACT

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