



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
MEMO

To: **Financial Affairs Committee**

From: **Jim Case, Fire Chief**

Date: **September 6, 2024**

Subject: **Request early purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) in advance of 2025 capital budget approval**

A. Issue

We are requesting approval for early purchase in 2024 of the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) budgeted for in the 2025 capital budget and a waiver to the competitive bid process.

B. Background/Options

The Fire Department's SCBAs are at the end of their useful life and behind national standards by two cycles. There is currently \$650,000 budgeted for in the 2025 capital budget for the replacement of approximately 72 SCBAs and associated equipment. The department was recently awarded a federal grant as part of a regional application to offset approximately \$250,000 of this purchase.

Due to a rapidly failing equipment and limited availability of parts, we are requesting to purchase our portion of the equipment in 2024 prior to approval of the 2025 budget not to exceed \$400,000.

In addition, we are requesting a waiver of the competitive bid process. There are only two factory-authorized regional vendors for this equipment and we are unable to obtain a third quote. We will purchase from either Air-One Equipment Inc. or MacQueen Equipment.

C. Strategic Plan (Area of Focus)

Priority 3: Infrastructure

D. Fiscal Impact

These are all replacement SCBAs, funds have already been set aside and will be reflected in the 2025 capital budget. Due to the grant mentioned above, the Wauwatosa portion of the purchase will not exceed \$400,000 resulting in a savings of approximately \$250,000.

E. Recommendation

Authorization for early expenditure of the 2025 SCBA replacement capital funding and a waiver to the competitive bid process.