



City of Culver City

Mike Balkman Council
Chambers
9770 Culver Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232

Staff Report

File #: 24-1105, **Version:** 1

Item #: C-7.

CC - CONSENT ITEM: Approval of a Purchase Order with Econolite Control Products for Three Traffic Signal Battery Backup Systems in an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$45,048.87.

Meeting Date: June 10, 2024

Contact Person/Dept.: Andrew Maximous/Public Works Department

Phone Number: (310) 253-5628

Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐ **General Fund:** Yes ☒ No ☐

Attachments: Yes ☐ No ☒

Public Notification: E-Mail: (06/06/2024) Meetings and Agendas - City Council

Department Approval: Yanni Demitri, Public Works Director/City Engineer, (05/22/2024)

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the City Council approve a purchase order with Econolite Control Products for three traffic signal battery backup systems in an amount not-to-exceed \$45,048.87.

BACKGROUND

The Culver City Public Works Department Maintenance Operations Division maintains 115 traffic signals. Twenty-three intersections currently have a battery backup system. When a loss of power occurs, the traffic signal indications become dark. While the California Vehicle Code Section 21800 (d)(1) requires drivers to stop when approaching intersections where a traffic signal is not working, many drivers are unaware of this requirement. Installing a battery backup system would help reduce traffic collisions and congestion by ensuring that the traffic signal continues to operate after power failures, power spikes, or interruptions in service.

DISCUSSION

The City selected Econolite as its standard battery backup system after a previous trial period of various systems and vendors between 2020 and 2022. The Econolite system uses nickel-zinc batteries instead of the traditional lead-acid batteries. The nickel-zinc batteries do not contain

hazardous materials, are half the size and weight of lead-acid batteries, and have a longer operational life.

The compact form of the Econolite batteries do not require a separate side cabinet to be installed to the traffic signal cabinet. Instead, they can be installed within the existing traffic signal cabinet. Two batteries at each location will allow the traffic signal to run normally for approximately 1-2 hours and to then run in all-way flashing red mode for an additional 6-8 hours approximately, providing up to 10 hours of backup time.

On December 5, 2022, the City Council authorized a purchase order with Econolite Control Products to purchase 15 battery backup systems. On September 18, 2023, the City Council authorized a purchase order with Econolite Control Products to purchase 10 battery backup systems.

This purchase would install an additional three battery backup systems at the City's largest and most congested intersections. The locations are:

1. Washington Pl & Centinela Ave
2. Washington Pl & Sawtelle Blvd
3. Sepulveda Blvd & I-405 On/Off Ramps

Pursuant to Culver City Municipal Code Section 3.07.055.B, competitive bidding requirements do not apply when the equipment is a component for equipment or a system of equipment previously acquired by the City, and is necessary to repair, maintain or improve the City's utilization of the equipment. This procurement falls within this exception. City staff did obtain three quotes for the initial purchase of the battery back-up equipment, and selected Econolite as the preferred firm, as well as the lowest quote. Staff recommends purchasing additional back-up batteries from Econolite to maintain a uniform system within the City.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

The Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 includes sufficient funding to cover costs of \$45,048.87 for the proposed purchase in Account No. 10160240.600200 (Public Works Electrical Maintenance - R&M - Equipment)

ATTACHMENTS

None.

MOTIONS

That the City Council:

1. Approve a purchase order with Econolite Control Products for three traffic signal battery backup systems in an amount not-to-exceed \$45,048.87; and

2. Authorize the Purchasing Officer to execute the purchase order on behalf of the City.