



Camarillo City Council

AGENDA REPORT

Date: October 11, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

From: Greg Ramirez, City Manager

Submitted by: Dave Klotzle, Public Works Director

Subject: Authorization to Purchase Camarillo Area Transit Trolley Bus

BACKGROUND

The City is eligible to purchase one fleet replacement vehicle through the Ventura County Transportation Commission Program of Projects. The purchase cost is approved by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for 80% reimbursement. In 2014 the City established a trolley route operated with an 18-passenger Hometown Trolley Carriage via a monthly rental arrangement. Due to the decline in ridership during the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to reduce expenses, the trolley vehicle rental agreement was cancelled effective July 1, 2020 with the trolley route continuing with an existing Camarillo Area Transit (CAT) cutaway bus. As part of the City's vehicle replacement plan, City staff is proposing to procure a trolley bus for the trolley route.

DISCUSSION

The City has traditionally purchased transit vehicles through the California Association for Coordinated Transportation/Morongo Basin Transit Authority (CalACT/MBTA) purchasing cooperative; however, a trolley bus is not part of the current cooperative. Staff identified and joined a cooperative agreement through the State of Georgia Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) that is available for outside agencies to join and procure transit vehicles, including trolley buses. The DOAS has a Statewide Contract for Public Mass Transit Vehicles and Related Options, Equipment and Accessories and ensures that transit vehicle purchases using FTA grant funds comply with federal statutes and regulations.

Hometown Manufacturing Inc. is an authorized vendor and has an approved list of vehicles they can provide through the DOAS Statewide Contract. The specific vehicle needed to appropriately meet CAT service demands has been selected from the preapproved list and will comply with federally required accessibility features. The gasoline-powered (internal combustible engine) trolley will replace a CAT vehicle scheduled to be retired and is consistent with the timeline and vehicle replacement plan

approved by City Council as part of the Zero Emission Bus Rollout Plan.

The trolley vehicle type selected for procurement is an 18-22-passenger Hometown Carriage Trolley, at a cost of \$218,630.55, as shown in Attachments 1 and 2. This trolley will accommodate two wheelchairs which when in use, space remains for up to 18 ambulatory passengers and the driver. The trolley's exterior finish will include two-toned paint with colors yet to be determined, and graphics similar to the other CAT vehicles.

The quote from Hometown Manufacturing does not include California sales tax therefore the City will self-assess state use tax in the amount of \$15,850.71 for a total purchase price of \$234,481.26. The City will remit the use tax to the California State Board of Equalization on the quarterly return.

Staff conducted an independent cost estimate of similar trolleys. Creative Bus provided an estimate of \$230,000 - \$300,000 for a similar size trolley. Additionally, the City of Ojai purchased a 30-passenger propane trolley in 2018 for \$291,000. The Hometown Carriage Trolley price of \$234,481.26 is reasonable and within the range of acceptable pricing for this vehicle type.

The total cost for the trolley bus is \$234,481.26, of which 80% is reimbursable by the FTA. In addition to the request to procure the Hometown Carriage Trolley, staff is recommending authorization of a contingency in the amount of \$21,000 for potential additional procurement costs.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for the purchase of the trolley bus and contingency are included in the Transit Fund, Capital Purchases, Vehicle Account No. 810-3801-438.91-33 in the amount of \$255,481.26.

CEQA DETERMINATIONS

City staff has determined, in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, that CAT vehicle procurement is not subject to CEQA review because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the CAT vehicle procurement may have a significant effect on the environment. City is replacing internal combustion engine vehicles with internal combustion engine vehicles without increasing the total number of vehicles.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Find the CAT vehicle procurement exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA (CEQA) Guidelines; and
2. Authorize the issuance of a purchase order to Hometown Manufacturing, Inc. in the total amount of \$234,481.26 for the purchase of a trolley bus; and

3. Authorize a contingency of up to \$21,000 in additional vehicle procurement costs.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Hometown Manufacturing, Inc. Quote
2. Floor Plan

REFERENCE MATERIALS – AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT CITY HALL

None