

## **Supplemental Information: Reusable Personal Protective Equipment Agenda Item**

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the supply chain for disposable personal protective equipment (PPE) has been taxed as entities across the globe are in pursuit of PPE to protect personnel from contracting the virus. Although Carrollton Fire Rescue currently has a few month's supply of PPE, we have encountered numerous difficulties obtaining disposable PPE and cannot guarantee sufficient supplies in the future. This has prompted us to find an alternative to disposable PPE thus preventing us from having to rely on fluctuating market demands in the future.

We are currently using disposable N-95 masks and disposable isolation gowns as our PPE ensemble in response to potential COVID situations. Because CFR often operates in uncontrolled environments, the levels of protection afforded by disposable masks (particularly those that are not certified by NIOSH) and disposable isolation gowns are questionable depending on the situation and unknown levels of exposure to COVID-19. We have identified a washable and reusable PPE ensemble that will offer a more economical solution for the City while extending better protection to our front-line Fire Rescue personnel.

This reusable PPE ensemble includes our self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) facepiece that each firefighter currently has. We have purchased P100 filters and adapters to fit each member's facepiece. This setup precludes the need for our personnel to wear disposable facemasks, safety glasses, and face shields while offering complete protection from transmission of disease via respiratory and mucosal pathways on medical calls where the threat of exposure to COVID-19 is presumed high.

To complete the proposed PPE ensemble, we are asking for the purchase of two washable, re-usable coveralls that meet varying levels of viral, biological, radiological, and nuclear exposure certification levels. The suits are made by the public safety clothing manufacturer Blauer. The coverall integrates with our current SCBA facepiece mentioned above. It is the first commercially available suit of its kind. This offers the highest level of protection for our employees of the current threat of COVID-19 and will also offer protection required against the threat of future potential pandemics including Ebola.

The shelf life of these suits is 20 years. The cost of each suit is \$380. The cost to outfit 170 of our current personnel is \$129,200. We included a 10% contingency in this agenda request to cover the purchase of additional coveralls due to adding personnel or damaged coveralls if needed. We have an opportunity to purchase these reusable coveralls directly from the manufacturer. This purchase will not require a bid due to the Governors emergency order.

To outline potential cost implications, please consider the following:

The cost to outfit each Firefighter with disposable PPE is \$5.95 per call. The cost to outfit a firefighter with a set of Blauer reusable coveralls is \$380.00.

At 64 patient contacts, the cost for the disposable option is \$380.80 per firefighter which is the point at which we would recoup our costs per suit.

We average approximately 1000 calls per month with approximately 700 of them being medical calls. Due to potential COVID patients, our personnel are currently wearing disposable PPE to the majority of these calls.