



AGENDA
ITEM 4f
DATE 3-2-09

City Council Report

Date: March 2, 2009
To: City Council
Through: Christopher J. Brady, City Manager
From: George Gascón, Chief of Police
Subject: Purchase of a Fixed Wing Aircraft

Purpose and Recommendation

The City of Mesa Police Department is respectfully requesting that the Mesa City Council waive the competitive bidding process and approve the purchase of a 1981 Cessna P210N Javelin aircraft. Funds in the amount of \$295,000 from the Public Safety Bond will be used to purchase the aircraft for the Mesa Police Department's Aviation Unit.

Background

The Mesa Police Department Aviation Unit provides aerial support for patrol, surveillance capability, and transportation for detectives to further investigations. The department currently utilizes a 1978 Cessna 172, acquired in 1986, to fulfill these missions. In August 2007, the Federal Aviation Administration expanded Phoenix Sky Harbor's airspace, reducing the area in which law enforcement aircraft can safely operate valley wide. As a result, aircraft operations in west Mesa routinely occur above 7,500 feet mean sea level with a pair of binoculars. The Cessna 172 does not perform effectively in this environment and is not capable of carrying a camera system to conduct ground observation from that altitude.

Discussion

The bond funds for the Aviation program are being used to replace two aircraft, one fixed wing and one helicopter. In addition the bond funds will be used to purchase a mobile stabilized camera observation system with day and night capabilities for the fixed wing aircraft. The fixed wing aircraft must be larger and carry a higher pay load than our current aircraft in order to mount the camera system. The fixed wing aircraft and camera system will be used to supplement patrol operations. The fixed wing aircraft can fly longer and has a lower hourly operating cost. To make the best use of the bond funds available, the purchase of a used aircraft is necessary. Due to the

limited supply of aircraft available and the seller's need for an immediate sale, this purchase will not follow the normal procurement procedures.

The least expensive available aircraft in the current market that meets our needs is a Cessna P210. This aircraft performs effectively at 10,000 feet and above. Flight duration in this aircraft is increased from four hours to six hours from our current Cessna 172. The Cessna P210 has the ability to transport up to six people versus four in the Cessna 172. The Cessna P210 is a significantly more effective tool to support patrol operations and transport personnel for law enforcement purposes.

Three Cessna P210 aircraft are currently for sale on the market. A comparison of total hours and purchase price for the three aircraft is listed below:

AIRCRAFT	YEAR	TOTAL HOURS	PRICE
Cessna P210N Javelin	1978	3,389	\$279,900
Cessna P210N Javelin	1980	4,590	\$289,000
Cessna P210N Javelin	1981	3,450	\$295,000

The 1981 Cessna P210N is the best of the three aircraft. This airplane is the newest of the three; it has a low number of total hours and appears to be the best condition. This aircraft was test flown and examined in Sacramento, California by Mesa Police Department Aviation personnel. According to the aircraft maintenance records; it was well maintained. The owner agreed to include an annual inspection, pitot-static system testing and certification, and transponder testing and certification. The aircraft will be purchased from a private owner through an aircraft brokerage company, Sacrament Aviation.

Fiscal Impact

The purchase price of the Cessna P210N is \$295,000; funding will be provided through the Public Safety Bond approved in November 2008. According to the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, the market value of the Cessna P210N, is \$334,295. Once the Cessna P210N is operational, the Cessna 172 will be sold.

The department's current airplane was originally acquired through the asset forfeiture process. Due to this, the proceeds from the sale of the aircraft are required to go back to the asset forfeiture account.

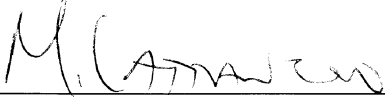
Alternatives

As an alternative, either a twin piston aircraft or a turbine aircraft could effectively perform missions for the police department. However, the cost of these aircraft range from \$600,000 to \$3,000,000 and the operating costs increase threefold.

As a second alternative, the Mesa Police Department Aviation Unit can continue using the current Cessna 172 aircraft; however patrol support and transportation capabilities will be limited.

Concurrence

The following staff members concur with the City of Mesa Police Department's recommendation to purchase this Cessna P210N aircraft.



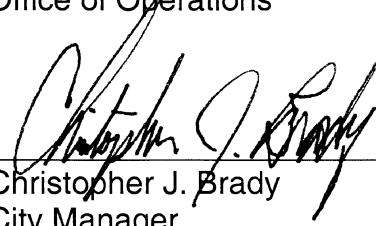
Mario Lattanzio
Commander, Office of Operations



John Meza
Assistant Chief
Office of Operations



George Gascon
Police Chief



Christopher J. Brady
City Manager