

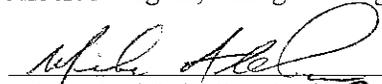
MEMORANDUM

**Purchasing Division
Fire Department**

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MEMO TO: Albert J. Rigoni, Village Manager

FROM:


Michael Aleksic, Purchasing Agent


Chief Ralph Czerwinski, Fire Department

DATE: March 25, 2010

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item – April 7, 2010 Village of Skokie Board Meeting
Fire Department Turnout Gear**

Background:

Following extensive research and testing by Fire Department Staff in 2005, it was determined that Morning Pride brand fire safety gear provides the best combination of thermal protection, breath ability, weight, flexibility, blood born pathogen protection and durability. Morning Pride fire safety gear was chosen as the brand that best fits the needs of the Skokie Fire Department, and as a result the Department standardized on this brand and provided all 116 sworn members with Morning Pride fire safety gear.

Based on industry standards, manufacturer's recommendations and the routine exposure to heat, smoke, and wear and tear, fire safety gear only has a useful life of five years. The FY 2010 C.I.P. budget provides funding for the replacement of 21 complete sets of firefighter safety gear that was originally purchased in 2005. The current five year C.I.P. program provides for the replacement of one fifth of the entire inventory every year. This annual program allows for a more fiscally responsible approach toward timely replacement, providing each member with fire safety gear that does not exceed five years of useful life. In addition, Morning Pride continues to provide the best fire safety gear which meets the needs of the Skokie Fire Department. It is extremely important that the department maintains a standardization of fire safety gear for each and every member.

Budget & Account No: 020-0420-418.07-50 #D33069 \$39,790

#265110

Recommendation:

It is recommended that a contract for the purchase of 21 complete sets of fire safety gear in the amount of \$39,790 be awarded to Air One Equipment Inc., South Elgin, Illinois, the sole authorized dealer in the Midwest for Morning Pride gear.

Comments:

Fire safety gear is an integral and necessary component of personal protective equipment worn by all sworn members of the department. Fire safety gear, sometimes called turnout or bunker gear provides personal firefighter protection from the environment encountered while operating at structural firefighting incidents, auto extrications, hazardous material spills, and other associated emergency responses.

Manufactured out of the latest fire resistive materials, each set of fire safety gear includes an outer coat, pants, suspenders, uniquely designed outer and inner pockets, knee protection pads and reflective outer markings.