

Memorandum



Date: September 8, 2026

To: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniella Levine Cava".

SHC
Agenda Item No. 3(E)

Subject: Recommendation to Establish a Prequalification Pool for Structural Firefighting Personal Protective Equipment (Group 4)

Executive Summary

This item is to establish a prequalification pool for the purchase of structural firefighting personal protective equipment, also known as bunker gear, for the protection of firefighters from various hazards during firefighting operations for the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department (MDFR). The pool will enable MDFR to solicit spot market competitions to purchase different brands of bunker for testing and approval for future use, as well as emergency purchases during supply chain disruptions. At least two full sets of bunker gear are issued to each firefighting personnel to ensure they are always equipped to respond to any emergency incidents. Approval of this pool will ensure MDFR has alternative ways to purchase bunker gear and allow the testing of different types of bunker gear brands, expanding MDFR's options and competition for future purchases.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), specifically NFPA 1851, requires that bunker gear and its components be retired from service no later than 10 years from the date of manufacture. Over the next five years, it is projected that approximately 14,219 coats, 9,982 pants, 3,797 helmets, 739 hoods, 922 gloves, and 781 boots will have reached or will be nearing the end of their useful life and will require replacement.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approve the establishment of *Prequalification Pool No. EVN0038756, Structural Firefighting Personal Protective Equipment (Group 4)*, in the amount of \$15,000,000 for a five-year term for MDFR. Establishment of a pool is recommended to enable MDFR to test the various types of bunker gear available and determine if they are suitable for deployment in real world incidents. The pool will also serve as an alternative procurement source in the event contracted vendors are unable to meet the County's demand.

Background

A solicitation was issued on February 17, 2026. Upon advertisement of the solicitation, 127 vendors were notified and invited via INFORMS. Additional outreach included contacting vendors identified through market research and notifying incumbent vendors. On the closing date of March 19, 2026, the County received eight submittals, including one from a local firm. The solicitation included four groups: Group 1 – Lion Structural Firefighting Ensemble; Group 2 – Globe Structural Firefighting Ensemble; Group 3 – Viking Structural Firefighting Ensemble; and Group 4 – Prequalified Pool of Vendors.

There are six vendors recommended for inclusion in the pool, one of which is a local firm. The pool will remain open to allow additional vendors to be added during the term of the pool. This pool will allow MDFR to respond to instances where the equipment is unavailable from contracted vendors and there is an immediate need for replacement of bunker gear, as well as provide the ability to expand to different brands of bunker gear that are approved for deployment. A companion item is being presented to the Board in parallel to this item, recommending the award of a contract under Groups 1, 2, and 3 of the solicitation.

Bunker gear consists of four main components: a coat, pants, headgear, and boots. The coat and pants are made from flame-resistant materials like Nomex or Kevlar, which protect the body from flames and heat. The heat-resistant materials and layered construction reduce the risk of burns and heat-related injuries. The headgear provides thermal protection and is designed to fit snugly to protect the head and neck and includes a protective hood that offers additional protection from flames and smoke. The boots provide protection from hot surfaces and prevent scalding or other injuries. In addition to thermal protection, the bunker gear plays a vital role in safeguarding firefighters from respiratory harm by limiting exposure to hazardous particles and smoke when used alongside breathing apparatus. It also provides physical protection against falling debris, sharp objects, and structural hazards that are common in emergency incidents. Altogether, the equipment enables firefighters to perform their duties more safely and effectively, ensuring they can respond to life-threatening and health-critical situations with greater confidence and reduced risk.

Bunker gear must be replaced every 10 years in accordance with NFPA standards. Over time, repeated exposure to heat, contaminants, and physical wear degrade protective materials, reducing their effectiveness. Regular replacement ensures that firefighters continue to receive the highest level of protection and that the equipment meets current safety requirements.

Scope

The scope of this item is countywide in nature.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source

The fiscal impact for the five-year term is \$15,000,000. The current contract utilized by MDFR to purchase approved bunker gear, *FB-01840*, is valued at \$12,740,722 for a five-year and six-month term and expires on February 28, 2027; however, it does not include a prequalification pool group.

Department	Allocation	Funding Source	Budgeted
MDFR	\$15,000,000	Fire District	FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget, Volume 2, Page 76, Contractual Services
Total	\$15,000,000		

Track Record/Monitor

Christopher Grant-Henriques of the Strategic Procurement Department (SPD) is the Division Director.

Delegated Authority

If this item is approved, a pool of prequalified vendors will be established to participate in spot market competitions. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee will have the authority to solicit pricing and award contracts up to an aggregate amount of the allocation authorized by the Board. The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee will also have the authority to (a) exercise all provisions of the solicitation documents and any resulting contracts pursuant to Section 2-8.1 of the County Code and Implementing Order 3-38 and (b) add vendors to the pool at any time, subject to ratification by the Board on a bi-annual basis. Any contract award under the prequalification pool exceeding \$5,000,000 is subject to ratification by the Board.

Vendors Prequalified for Pool

Pursuant to Resolution No. R-477-18, fewer than 75 percent of recommended vendors are local due to the specialized nature of the required equipment and the limited number of manufacturers and authorized distributors or resellers in Miami-Dade County.

Vendor	Principal Address	Local Address	Principal
Advanced Emergency Services Training, Inc. dba AEST Fire & Safety	304 North Wilkinson Drive Laurinburg, NC	None	Ron Givens
Fire Fighter One LLC	34 Wilson Drive Sparta, NJ	None	Jonathan Van Norman
Municipal Equipment Company, LLC	408 Bif Court Orlando, FL	None	Matthew Fenneman
North America Fire Equipment Co., Inc.	1515 West Moulton Street Decatur, AL	None	Brandon Oaks
Ten-8 Fire & Safety, LLC	1112 Manatee Avenue East Bradenton, FL	None	Keith Chapman
Viking Life-Saving Equipment (America), Inc.	11255 Northwest 106 Street, Suite 1 Medley, FL	Same	Henrik Helsinghof

Vendors Not Prequalified for Pool

SPD is providing guidance to vendors that did not meet the prequalification requirements. Upon submission of the required documents and/or verification of information, the vendors may be added to the pool. Outreach efforts will continue to encourage additional participation.

Vendor	Local Address	Reason for Not Recommending
MES Service Company, LLC	None	Vendor did not meet the prequalification requirements.
PGI, Inc.	None	

Due Diligence

Pursuant to Resolution No. R-187-12, due diligence was conducted in accordance with SPD's Procurement Guidelines to determine vendor responsibility, including verifying corporate status and that there are no performance and compliance issues, through various vendor responsibility lists and a keyword internet search. The lists that were referenced included convicted vendors, debarred vendors, delinquent contractors, suspended vendors, and federal excluded parties. There were no adverse findings relating to vendor responsibility.

Applicability of Ordinances and Contract Measures

- The two percent User Access Program applies where permitted by funding source.
- Small Business Enterprise measures will be determined prior to advertising each spot market competition. Local Preference will be applied at the time of spot market competition where permitted by funding source.
- The Living Wage Ordinance does not apply.



Arnold Palmer
Chief of Public Safety



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: October 6, 2026

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No.

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Statement of social equity required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☐ No committee review
- ☐ Requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, majority plus one ____, CDMP 7 votes (majority of membership) ____, CDMP 2/3 members present but not less than 7 votes (majority of membership) ____, CDMP 9 votes (2/3 membership) ____) to approve
- ☒ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ESTABLISHMENT OF PREQUALIFICATION POOL NO. EVN0038756, STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (GROUP 4), IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000,000.00 FOR A FIVE-YEAR TERM FOR MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT; AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO: SOLICIT PRICING AND AWARD CONTRACTS UP TO AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD, EXERCISE ALL PROVISIONS OF THE SOLICITATION DOCUMENTS AND ANY RESULTING CONTRACTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-8.1 OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND IMPLEMENTING ORDER 3-38, AND ADD VENDORS TO THE POOL AT ANY TIME, SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION BY THE BOARD ON A BI-ANNUAL BASIS; PROVIDED THAT ANY CONTRACT AWARD UNDER THE POOL EXCEEDING \$5,000,000.00 IS RATIFIED BY THE BOARD

WHEREAS, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board authorizes establishment of Prequalification Pool No. EVN0038756, Structural Firefighting Personal Protective Equipment (Group 4), in the amount of \$15,000,000.00 for a five-year term for the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department; and authorizing the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to (a) solicit pricing and award contracts up to an aggregate amount authorized by the Board (b) exercise all provisions of the solicitation documents and any resulting contracts pursuant to section 2-8.1 of the Code of Miami-Dade County and Implementing Order 3-38 and (c) add vendors to the pool at any time, subject to ratification by the Board on a bi-annual basis; provided

that any contract award under the pool exceeding \$5,000,000.00 is ratified by the Board, A copy of the pool documents is on file with and available upon request from the Strategic Procurement Department.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner ,
who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner
and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman

Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman

Marleine Bastien

Sen. René García

Roberto J. Gonzalez

Danielle Cohen Higgins

Natalie Milian Orbis

Micky Steinberg

Juan Carlos Bermudez

Oliver G. Gilbert, III

Keon Hardemon

Vicki L. Lopez

Raquel A. Regalado

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 6th day of October, 2026. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. W. Gonzalez', written over a horizontal line.

Eduardo W. Gonzalez