

Memorandum



Date: September 8, 2026

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

From: Daniella Levine Cava 
Mayor

Subject: Recommendation to Award a Contract for Structural Firefighting Personal Protective Equipment

SHC
Agenda Item No. 3(G)

Executive Summary

This item is 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 contract has four groups that will provide multiple types of coats, pants, headgear, and boots currently maintained in MDFR's inventory, all of which are necessary for responding to hazardous situations. 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 contract will allow MDFR to continue to purchase bunker gear that protects firefighting personnel from intense heat, steam, flames, and toxic smoke, while also reducing the risk of burns, respiratory damage and physical injuries caused by debris.

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, 922 gloves, 739 hoods, 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 competitive contract awards, *Contract No. EVN0038756, Structural Firefighting Personal Protective Equipment*, for a five-year term, to Municipal Equipment Company, LLC (Group 1) in the amount of \$11,424,996, Ten-8 Fire & Safety, LLC (Group 2) in the amount of \$11,824,946, and Viking Life-Saving Equipment (America), Inc. (Group 3) in the amount of \$10,725,058, in a total combined amount of \$33,975,000. This contract will replace *FB-01840*, which was approved by the Board via Resolution No. R-683-21.

Background

A solicitation was issued under full and open competition 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 responses, 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. These groups represent the different types of bunker gear that are currently deployed to the firefighting personnel throughout the County and allow MDFR to replenish or replace any items nearing their useful lifecycle. A companion item is being presented to the Board in parallel to this item, recommending the establishment of a prequalification pool for Group 4 of the solicitation.

This contract will ensure that MDFR firefighters are equipped with bunker gear designed to withstand extreme heat and hazardous conditions. 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 \$33,975,000. The current contract is valued at \$12,740,722 for a five-year and six-month term and expires on February 28, 2027. The annualized allocation under the proposed contract is higher than the current contract due to projected issuance of bunker gear to new recruits, required replacement of currently deployed equipment, the replenishment of inventory reaching the end of its 10-year lifespan, and an approximately 20% contingency to account for anticipated price adjustments allowable under the contract terms.

Department	Allocation	Funding Source	Budgeted
MDFR	\$33,975,000	Fire District	FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget, Volume 2, Page 76, Contractual Services
Total	\$33,975,000		

Track Record/Monitor

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

Delegated Authority

If this item is approved, the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee will have the authority to give notice of this award to the recommended vendors, issue the appropriate purchase orders to give effect to these awards, and exercise all provisions of the contracts, including cancellation or extensions, pursuant to Section 2-8.1 of the County Code and Implementing Order 3-38.

Vendors Recommended for Award

Pursuant to Resolution No. R-477-18, the lowest bidders are recommended in accordance with the method of award per the solicitation and two are non-local. Only one local firm was identified as manufacturing or having the authorization to distribute or resell equipment that meet the scope requirements.

Vendor	Principal Address	Local Address	Number of Employee Residents	Principal
			1) Miami-Dade 2) Percentage*	
Municipal Equipment Company, LLC	408 Bif Court Orlando, FL	None	0	Matthew Fenneman
			0%	

Vendor	Principal Address	Local Address	Number of Employee Residents	Principal
			1) Miami-Dade 2) Percentage*	
Ten-8 Fire & Safety, LLC	1112 Manatee Avenue East Bradenton, FL	None	1	Keith Chapman
			1%	
Viking Life-Saving Equipment (America), Inc.	11255 NW 106 Street, Suite 1 Medley, FL	Same	50	Henrik Helsinghof
			34%	

*Provided pursuant to Resolution No. R-1011-15. Percentage of employee residents is the percentage of vendor's employees who reside in Miami-Dade County as compared to the vendor's total workforce.

Vendors Not Recommended for Award

Vendor	Local Address	Reason for Not Recommending
Advance Emergency Services Training, Inc. dba AEST Fire & Safety	None	Group 1: No Bid* Group 2: No Bid* Group 3: No Bid*
Firefighter One LLC	None	
MES Service Company, LLC	None	
North America Fire Equipment Co., Inc.	None	Group 1: Higher than lowest bid Group 2: No Bid* Group 3: No Bid*
PGI, Inc.	None	Group 1: No Bid* Group 2: No Bid* Group 3: No Bid*

*A "No Bid" means the vendor responded indicating that it will not be providing an offer.

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 reviewed included convicted vendors, debarred vendors, delinquent contractors, suspended vendors, and federally excluded parties. No adverse findings were identified.

Pursuant to Resolution No. R-140-15, prior to re-procurement, a full review of the scope of services was conducted to ensure the replacement contract reflects the County's current needs. The review included conducting market research, posting a draft solicitation for industry comment, and holding meetings and drafting sessions with the user department.

Pursuant to Resolution No. R-252-25, efforts were made to identify any potential piggybacking opportunities prior to issuance of a competitive solicitation. No contracts were identified for accessing as most contracts only provide for one specific brand.

Applicability of Ordinances and Contract Measures

- The two percent User Access Program applies.
- The Small Business Enterprise Bid Preference and Local Preference applied.
- 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 APPROVING AWARD OF CONTRACT NO. EVN0038756, STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, TO MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT COMPANY, LLC (GROUP 1) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,424,996.00; TEN-8 FIRE & SAFETY, LLC (GROUP 2) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,824,946.00; AND VIKING LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT, INC. (GROUP 3) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,725,058.00, FOR A TOTAL COMBINED AMOUNT OF \$33,975,000.00 FOR A FIVE-YEAR TERM FOR THE MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT; AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO GIVE NOTICE OF THIS AWARD TO THE RECOMMENDED VENDORS, ISSUE THE APPROPRIATE PURCHASE ORDERS TO GIVE EFFECT TO SAME AND EXERCISE ALL PROVISIONS OF THE CONTRACTS, INCLUDING ANY CANCELLATION OR EXTENSIONS, PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-8.1 OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND IMPLEMENTING ORDER 3-38

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:

Section 1. This Board approves award of Contract No. EVN0038756, Structural Firefighting Personal Protective Equipment, to Municipal Equipment Company, LLC (Group 1) in the amount of \$11,424,996.00; Ten-8 Fire & Safety, LLC (Group 2) in the amount of \$11,824,946.00; and Viking Life-Saving Equipment, Inc. (Group 3) in the amount of \$10,725,058.00, for a total combined amount of \$33,975,000.00 for a five-year term for the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department.

Section 2. This Board authorizes the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to give notice of this award to the recommended vendors, issue the appropriate purchase orders to give effect to same, and exercise all provisions of the contracts, including any cancellation or extensions, pursuant to section 2-8.1 of the Code of Miami-Dade County and Implementing Order 3-38. The contract documents are 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	Juan Carlos Bermudez
Sen. René García	Oliver G. Gilbert, III
Roberto J. Gonzalez	Keon Hardemon
Danielle Cohen Higgins	Vicki L. Lopez
Natalie Milian Orbis	Raquel A. Regalado
Micky Steinberg	

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.



Eduardo W. Gonzalez