

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: August 22, 2024

PREPARED BY: Chris Gerry, Senior Project Manager

SUBJECT: APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF 19 TRAFFIC SIGNAL CABINETS FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL HARDWARE UPGRADES (PROJECT NO. MTS00003)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve the purchase of 19 traffic signal cabinets for Traffic Signal Hardware Upgrades to Econolite Control Products, Inc., in the amount of \$381,718.67.
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute all documents necessary to effectuate this action, in accordance with Section 3.30.170 of the Palm Desert Municipal Code.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

The Traffic Signal Hardware Upgrade Project is an annual maintenance program that involves upgrading and replacing existing traffic signal hardware. The Public Works Department is responsible for the advance purchase of traffic signal cabinets due to the extensive manufacturing lead time, which can span several months. To ensure optimal functionality and minimize downtime, staff conduct rigorous quality control checks on each cabinet before deployment.

Current Status:

The traffic cabinets are slated for installation in upcoming traffic rewiring and intersection improvement projects. Having these cabinets readily available allows for more efficient project scheduling, thereby reducing potential disruptions to motorists.

Inventory Management:

The City owns and maintains more than 100 signalized intersections. Each signalized intersection includes a signal controller cabinet that houses the signal controller and other vital signal components. The majority of the City-owned controller cabinets are Econolite Type P cabinets, with a few Econolite Type R cabinets.

Recent vehicle accidents have damaged existing cabinets, and the current stock has been utilized to replace them. The requested cabinets are intended to replenish the City's inventory, provide a reserve for future incidents, and ensure a swift response to any unforeseen damage.

Conclusion:

The procurement and preemptive quality control of traffic cabinets are crucial for maintaining traffic infrastructure and minimizing project delays. This proactive approach not only supports ongoing and upcoming traffic management projects but also strengthens the City's capacity to address emergencies and maintain efficient operations. Econolite Control Products, Inc., has continuously been the exclusive manufacturer and supplier of all City traffic signal cabinets to ensure uniformity and compatibility across our traffic management system. This approach simplifies maintenance and repair by using interchangeable parts and components. Additionally,

it allows the City to secure cost savings through bulk purchasing agreements and reduces the administrative burden of managing multiple suppliers. By consolidating the purchases with one manufacturer, the City receives enhanced system reliability and streamlined technical support. Note the vendor is the sole source provider of this cabinet (see attachment), and the cabinet is not offered through a State procurement program managed by the California Department of General Services.

Legal Review:

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney's office.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funds in the amount of \$800,000 for Traffic Signal Hardware Upgrade Project are included in the approved FY 2024-25 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) List. The expense is allocated to Measure A Account No. 2134250-5000906; therefore, approval of this purchase has no financial impact to the General Fund beyond administrative costs.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Quote
2. Sole Source Provider Letter