

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - Purchase of Fire Apparatus]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to allow City departments to enter into and amend agreements for accelerated acquisition of Fire Apparatus without complying with solicitation requirements that would otherwise apply, and without complying with provisions in the Municipal Code that impose obligations on contracting parties as a condition of contracting with the City.

Existing Law

Fire Apparatus are purchased by the City under the authority of Chapter 21 of the Administrative Code. The Purchaser generally conducts a solicitation, and awards a contract. The awarded contractor is subject to the City's regime of contracting laws.

Amendments to Current Law

The Fire Department would be being given authority to directly purchase Fire Apparatus in select circumstances ("accelerated purchasing") if the Fire Department chooses. The Fire Department would not have to follow a statutory competitive process, and may instead contact and negotiate directly with potential suppliers for purchase of Fire Apparatus in this accelerated manner. Awarded contractors would not need to comply with most of the City's contracting requirements. If the special authority is not used, the regular process for such purchases is still in effect.

This special authority will expire in 5 years. Initial contracts must be awarded prior to July 1, 2027, and amendments or modifications of those contracts made between July 1, 2027 and July 1, 2030 would also exempt from those requirements. Once the special authority expires, all purchases of Fire Apparatus must be made in the regular manner.

Background Information

The City is experiencing challenges in purchasing Fire Apparatus. This is due in part to the consolidation of the industry. With the loss of leverage to purchase these critical items, the City is relaxing contract requirements that potentially chill competition, and allows bypassing the rigid competitive solicitation structure for more flexible communication and negotiations.

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