

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF THE:	AUTHORITY		
DATE:	14 OCTOBER 2021	REPORT NO:	CFO/057/21
PRESENTING OFFICER:	IAN CUMMINS, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & PROCUREMENT		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	HYWYN PRITCHARD, HEAD OF PROCUREMENT	REPORT AUTHOR:	IAN CUMMINS
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM		
TITLE OF REPORT:	FIRE BOOTS AND HOODS CONTRACT AWARD		

APPENDICES:

Purpose of Report

1. The Service invited tenders for the supply of firefighter boots and fire hoods on behalf of the North West Fire and Rescue Procurement Group. As the potential value of orders over the life of the contract may exceed £250,000 the Authority is required to approve the award of the contract.

Recommendation

2. That Members approve the framework agreement with;
 - a. Goliath for the supply of leather fire boots (pull-on and quick entry versions) and;
 - b. Eagle for the supply of fire hoods.

Introduction and Background

3. The North West Fire and Rescue Procurement Group (Merseyside, Manchester, Cumbria, Cheshire, Lancashire and Northern Ireland fire and rescues services) have been co-ordinating the specification for the supply of various firefighting PPE. The specification looks at ensuring the PPE meets the highest standards required to ensure firefighter safety and that suppliers can deliver the required range and scope of products to reflect a diverse workforce so all firefighters' needs are met.
4. A notice was published by Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service in the Official Journal of the European Union inviting tenders for a number of PPE items on 20th December 2019. Bids were received by the end of February 2020 and considered by the North West Fire and Rescue Procurement Group and the North West Technical Group (made up of operational staff from the relevant fire and rescue services').

5. Following the conclusion of the technical evaluation of the firefighter boots and fire hoods, the North West Procurement Group now wish to award a framework agreement with the successful suppliers;
 - a. Fire Boots with Goliath, and
 - b. Fire Hood with Eagle.

The combined value of the framework is estimated at £800,000 taking into account the needs of all of the North West partners.

Equality and Diversity Implications

6. The North West Fire and Rescue Service Procurement Group in determining the scope of the tender and the needs of individual fire and rescue services has ensured suppliers can deliver the required range and scope of products to reflect a diverse workforce so all firefighters' needs are met.

Staff Implications

7. The specification and evaluation of supplier products has taken into account the current highest level of fire standards required, this is to ensure that firefighter safety is a major consideration in determining what product and what supplier is chosen.

Legal Implications

8. The tender exercise has been conducted in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

9. The approved budget contains adequate provision to meet the cost of the current and future purchase of the Service's firefighter boot and hood requirements.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

10. The supply of firefighters PPE will contribute towards mitigating risks associated with firefighters' hazardous working environments.

Contribution to Our Mission: *To be the best Fire & Rescue Service in the UK.*

Our Purpose: *Here to serve, Here to protect, Here to keep you safe.*

11. By supplying the best firefighter PPE and equipment it will contribute to making MFRS the best service in the UK.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MFRS Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

PPE Personal Protective Equipment