



DATE: September 12, 2019
TO: Tyler Schroeder, Director of Administrative Services
FROM: Brad Bennett, AS Finance Manager
SUBJECT: Award of Bid #19-59; Patrol Boat

• **Background & Purpose**

Bids were duly advertised for the purchase of a 27' full cabin patrol boat to be used by the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office as part of the boating program.

Two responses were received to Bid #19-59 on Tuesday, August 27, 2019, as noted below:

Bidder	Make & Model	Base Price	Sales Tax (% Rate)	Total Bid Amount
Safe Boats International	Safe 27 Full Cabin	\$387,342.87	\$33,698.83 (8.7%)	\$421,041.70
Inventech Marine Solutions	IMS Life Proof 27' Full Cabin Pro	\$342,659.88	\$30,839.39 (9.0%)	\$373,499.26

The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office requests approval to award Bid #19-59 to low-bidder, Inventech Marine Solutions, located in Bremerton, Washington, for a total amount of \$373,499.26, including freight and sales tax.

• **Funding**

Funding for this capital purchase was appropriated on Supplemental #7, Ordinance #2019-041. The funding sources are:

- \$280,125.00; Received through a US Department of Homeland Security grant
- \$25,000.00; Received through a private donation from Phillips66
- \$68,375.00; General Fund – Vessel Registration Fee (VRF) Reserve Account

I concur with this request.


AS Finance Manager

Approved as recommended:

Director of Administrative Services

Date of Council Action _____

**WHATCOM COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

BILL ELFO
SHERIFF



PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
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Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
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MEMORANDUM

To: Brad Bennett, Finance Manager
From: Sheriff Elfo *Bill Elfo*
RE: Whatcom County Bid #19-59 Patrol Boat
Date: September 12, 2019

The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office is responsible for patrolling all of the lakes and rivers in Whatcom County along with approximately 700 square miles of salt water in the Straits of Georgia.

The Sheriff's Office applied for and received a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to fund 75% of the purchase of a new patrol vessel suitable for year round operation on salt water and dedicated to the north Puget Sound (Straits of Georgia). This boat will enhance our maritime domain, improve proactive patrols, and enable the Sheriff's Office to transport individuals arrested in Pt. Roberts to Bellingham (they cannot be transported by ground through Canada), respond and move resources (equipment and personnel) to and from Point Roberts in the event of an emergency, and be available 24/7 to respond rapidly to emergencies in the Straits of Georgia, including the protection of vulnerable infrastructure.

When planning this project, the Sheriff's Office researched several boat manufacturers that have a proven track record in designing and constructing commercial grade vessels for law enforcement and concluded that some of the desired features for the new patrol boat included a 27' platform, a sealed climate-controlled center cabin with a walk-through, and a Foam Air Stabilized Technologies (FAST) collar system with a thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) fabric covering.

To provide a true saltwater platform, it was determined that the length of the boat should not be less than 25' and that the industry standard seems to be either 27' or 32' in length. The 27' is the more versatile platform as it makes for easier trailering and towing of the boat when needed.

A sealed climate-controlled center cabin with a walk-through is necessary for the intended mission of the boat. A comfortable enclosed cabin is needed to safely transport prisoners from Pt. Roberts; and a walk-through is very important for efficiently crewing a boat of this size with a minimum 2-person crew.

A foam collar system is designed to stabilize the ride of the vessel. In particular, the Foam Air Stabilized Technologies (FAST) system has the ability to provide 100% foam collars, 100% air, or foam/air hybrid systems with any ratio of foam or air depending on the application. The ratio of air to foam can be changed by simply changing out the air bladder. In addition, our marine services mechanic is trained in the repair of these types of foam collar systems. Research also indicated that a foam collar system with thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) fabric covering is preferable to one with polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic covering. TPU material is more flexible than PVC and would provide a more flexible rub rail which would lessen the impact when contacting other vessels and reduce the potential for damage. The FAST system is also available for purchase by any boat manufacturer to utilize on the boats they build.

Desired features were included in the bid specifications. Language in the bid also stated: *"If a piece of equipment does not meet the specifications, please provide an explanation."* This allows vendors to substitute other equipment for specified equipment in the bid and provide an explanation why they believe their equipment is better than the specified equipment.

Bidding Process and Responses Received

Whatcom County Bid #19-59 for the Patrol Boat was advertised on August 14 and 21, 2019 in the Bellingham Herald and Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce and listed on the OMWBE website. In addition, 15 individuals/firms accessed the bid documents through the Whatcom County Purchasing Bid Postings website. The Sheriff's Office responded to potential bidders who contacted the Sheriff's Office with questions or concerns regarding the bid. The Sheriff's Office heard their concerns, understood their perspective, advised they could substitute equipment and provide explanations, and encouraged them to submit a bid. (One of the responsive bidders did substitute equipment and provided several explanations for differing equipment or proprietary equipment unique to their manufacturing process.)

Sealed bids were accepted by Whatcom County Purchasing until the bid closed August 27, 2019 at 2:30 PM at which time the bids were opened and publicly read aloud. Whatcom County received two bids:

Bidder	Make & Model	Total Bid Amount
Safe Boats International	Safe 27 Full Cabin	\$420,948.35
Inventech Marine Solutions	IMS Life Proof 27' Full Cabin Pro	\$373,499.26

Funding Amount and Source

Funding for this capital purchase in the amount of \$373,500.00 was appropriated on Supplemental ID #2019-2726 on approved Supplemental #7, Ordinance #2019-041.

Recommended Action

Please approve, and forward to the Executive and Whatcom County Council per WCC 3.08.100, the Sheriff's Office request to award Bid #19-59 to Inventech Marine Solutions for the purchase of one IMS Life Proof 27' Full Cabin Pro for the price of \$342,659.88 plus 9.0% sales tax, for a total bid amount of \$373,499.26.

Please contact Undersheriff Doug Chadwick at extension 6618 if you have any questions regarding this recommendation.

Thank you.

