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**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members  
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Lee Feldman, City Manager

**DATE:** September 18, 2012

**TITLE:** Motion to purchase specialized shipboard/marine firefighting training –  
Request for Proposal 223-11035 - \$249,000

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Commission approve an agreement to provide specialized shipboard firefighting training with Resolve Fire & Hazard Response, Inc. d/b/a Resolve Marine Academy in the amount of \$249,000.

**Background**

The City of Fort Lauderdale has approximately 111 miles of inland navigable waterways, and is home to forty-four (44) marinas/dry docks. According to Marine Industries Association, there are more than 1,500 mega yachts (80 feet or longer) that stay at our docks and marinas each year. Additionally, the City is the host for the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show. In addition to the City's own waterways, marinas and dry docks, Port Everglades borders within the boundaries of the City. Port Everglades is the world's busiest cruise ship homeport among global cruise ship ports with over a thousand arrivals and departures annually. Port Everglades is also south Florida's hub for receipt and distribution of petroleum products, from gasoline, diesel and ethanol, to jet fuel and asphalt.

The Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department (FTLFD) serves as the primary responder for fires or other rescue-related incidents occurring on the 50,000 registered vessels within the City and County along with approximately another 30,000 vessels that travel the City's inland waterways and beaches, and dock at our marinas. The FTLFD provides primary response, automatic and mutual aid (Fire and EMS) to eight (8) other municipalities that are adjacent to the City and along the Intracoastal Waterway. These fire-rescue agencies are contiguous to our boundaries and are an integral part of our automatic and mutual aid agreements. Given the immense number of boats and boating activities occurring throughout the City and within the County daily, proper shipboard/marine firefighting training is of critical importance.

The estimated total cost for the specialized shipboard/marine firefighter training program for all participants is \$249,000. It will be funded by the FY2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG).

The FY2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) was written as a regional training grant to provide training up to 1,100 firefighters, which includes the City and the eight (8) local Fire-Rescue agencies that are adjacent to the City and along the Intracoastal Waterway and/or Atlantic Ocean. The fire rescue agencies that agreed to send personnel for the training are as follows: Hollywood, Hallandale Beach, Dania Beach, Broward Sheriff's Fire-Rescue, Pompano Beach, Deerfield Beach, Oakland Park and Lighthouse Point.

The invitation to participate in the Request for Proposal (RFP) was distributed to training institutes throughout the United States as well Canada. Direct contact was made with numerous trainers and the RFP due date was extended three times in an effort to afford companies the opportunity to participate. Trainers/facilities contacted either wanted the City to go to their facilities out of town/state, provide a vessel/simulator for them, or change our specifications to delete the requirement for training aboard an actual vessel or full ship mock up simulator.

The Fire-Rescue Department requires the vessel/simulator to be utilized for the practical/hands-on portion of the training to simulate an actual maritime commercial or private vessel of 125' or more. Specification called for the vessel or simulator to have multiple levels such as: an engine room with an engine; cargo compartments; and crew compartments that replicate authentic components of a vessel along with vertical and horizontal passageways, marine fire suppression systems, communications systems and marine safety equipment. By having this hands-on training on a vessel or simulator, City Firefighters along with mutual/automatic aid partners will be able to get the most realistic training that is possible so that they can experience the smoke and heat conditions, along with maneuvering through narrow passageways.

A proposal was submitted by Resolve Marine Group, Inc., Resolve Fire & Hazard Response, Inc. d/b/a Resolve Marine Academy. Staff has requested an Affidavit to clarify the actual company contracting with the City. They were the only company agreeing to meet the specifications including providing the simulation vessel. The evaluation committee agreed that the proposer has the required knowledge, capability and experience required by the Fire-Rescue Department for this training. Their headquarters are located here in Fort Lauderdale and they also maintain offices in Alabama, Louisiana as well as the United Kingdom, Singapore and China. In addition to training fire departments, they have also provided training for the United States Coast Guard, The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), various cruise lines, oil refineries and more.

Considering that this was a single response to our proposal, City Ordinance 2-191 allows for negotiations with the proposer. Negotiations were conducted and Resolve has agreed to provide an additional 40 hour Train the Trainer course for 20 Fort Lauderdale Fire Department personnel at no additional cost to the City, so that our staff has the capability to provide refresher courses to firefighters in the future.

**Resource Impact**

There is a fiscal impact to the City in the amount of \$249,000

**FUNDS AVAILABILTY LOCATION:**

FY	FUND	SUB FUND	FUND NAME	INDEX #	INDEX NAME	SUB OBJECT #	SUBJECT NAME	AMOUNT
2012	129	01	MISC FEDERAL/ STATE/COUNTY GRANTS	GSHIPFIRE12	2010 ASSIST TO FIREFIGHTING GRANT (AFG)	4101	CERTIFICATION TRAINING	249,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>								<b>249,000.00</b>

**Attachment**

Exhibit 1 - Evaluation Committee Tabulation 223-11035

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Prepared By: James Hemphill, Senior Procurement Specialist

Department Director: Chief Jeffery Justinak, Fire-Rescue