



# City Council Report

**Date:** January 11, 2021  
**To:** City Council  
**Through:** Michael Kennington, Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer  
**From:** Edward Quedens, Business Services Director  
Matt Bauer, Procurement Administrator  
**Subject:** Ratification of the Emergency Purchase for Firefighting Suppression Agent for the Mesa Fire and Medical Department (Funded by the Capital – General Fund) **(Citywide)**

## Recommendation

Council is requested to ratify the emergency purchase of F-500 Encapsulating Agent as recommended.

The Mesa Fire and Medical Department and Purchasing recommend ratifying the purchase with FDC Rescue, LLC, at \$51,219.50.

## Background / Discussion

In January 2020, Senate Bill 1526 was passed stating local government or state agencies can no longer use class B foam (firefighting suppression agent) that contains intentionally added PFAS (fluorinated) chemicals for training or testing. Studies show that PFAS chemicals are harmful to the environment and can accumulate in the water table causing liver damage, fertility issues and cancer in humans. The Mesa Fire and Medical Department was tasked with finding an alternative firefighting suppression agent to replace our current class B firefighting foam.

A committee made up of Fire Operations, Special Operations, Fire Training, Fire Safety Division and fire apparatus mechanics conducted research on firefighting suppression agents. An NFPA approved product, F-500 Encapsulator Agent, was identified, tested, and found to be a good replacement for our current class B firefighting foam. F-500 is non-hazardous and contains no PFAS or PFOS chemicals. Several of our regional Fire partners also switched to the F-500 product because of its non-fluorinated properties and its effectiveness on class A (wood, paper), B (flammable liquids), D (metals) and lithium-ion battery fires.

Training has been completed for all Mesa Fire and Medical Department members and all frontline firefighting apparatus were drained of class A and B foam and switched to the F-500 product. Fire and Medical's initial purchase of F-500 was only able to fill half of the fire apparatus fleet. This emergency purchase of 1,500 gallons of F-500 Encapsulator Agent was required for filling the rest of the fire apparatus fleet and providing some reserve for replenishment until a purchase contract is established. Two fire apparatus have already

depleted their on-board 30-gallon tanks at two separate fire scenes. F-500 product is essential in extinguishing several types of fires including hazardous materials fires and is needed on all front-line fire apparatus.

FDC Rescue, LLC, is sole distributor for F-500 Encapsulator Agent and its complete product line in Arizona and southern Nevada for municipal fire service.

This emergency purchase was approved by the Mesa Fire Chief on 11/25/2020, and the Assistant City Manager on 12/1/2020, as necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and the public safety.

### **Purchase Information**

Action: Ratification

Procurement Type: Emergency Purchase: Immediate preservation of the public health and public safety

Contract Number: 2021112

Quote Number and Date: 7405 – 12/2/2020

Funding Source: Mesa Fire and Medical operating budget through the Capital – General Fund