

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

144



**FROM:** Stanley L. Sniff Jr., Sheriff-Coroner-PA

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
05/30/12

**SUBJECT:** Sole Source Purchase of an Inmate Security Bus for the Sheriff's Department

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** Move that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the purchase of an inmate security bus without securing competitive bids, in accordance with Ordinance 459.4, from Motor Coach Industries (MCI) in the amount of \$556,782, and authorize the Purchasing Agent to award the contract.
2. Approve the purchase of a mobile radio from the Public Safety Enterprise Communication Unit.

**BACKGROUND:** Annually, the Sheriff's Department transports approximately 160,000 inmates. Transportation destinations include state prisons throughout California, other county detention facilities, state hospitals, Riverside County courts, and various daily special transportation runs. In addition, the Department anticipates an increase in the number of inmates transported due to the impact of the state's prison realignment (AB109) program, and the future expansion/addition of 1,250 inmate beds at the Indio Jail.

(Continued on Page 2)

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
1454

Stanley L. Sniff Jr., Sheriff-Coroner-PA  
Steven Thetford, Assistant Sheriff

**FINANCIAL DATA**

Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$585,624	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$0	Budget Adjustment:	No
Annual Net County Cost:	\$0	For Fiscal Year:	FY 2011-12

**SOURCE OF FUNDS: AB 109 Criminal Justice Realignment  
BR 12-094**

Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:**

APPROVE

BY: *[Handwritten Signature]*  
Elizabeth J. Olson

**County Executive Office Signature**

- Policy
- Policy
- Consent
- Consent

Dep't Recomm.:  
Per Exec. Ofc.:

3.30

Departmental Concurrence

Purchasing: Mark Seiler, Assistant Director

The MCI 40-foot bus has become the bus of choice for the Sheriff's Departments in Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties. In 2001, the Federal Bureau of Prisons released a five-year study that compared the MCI bus against buses manufactured by Thomas, Bluebird and Eagle. At the time of that report, the Bureau owned 63 MCI buses. The study concluded that the MCI bus is the most durable and roadworthy bus for this critical long-haul type of transportation. It also is the least expensive bus to operate as shown through vehicle life cycle costing and miles between major repairs.

In 1999 and 2003, when County Purchasing disseminated an invitation for bids, MCI was the only qualified responsive bidder. In 2004, the Board again approved an award of contract for three replacement buses with MCI (3.21, 12/07/04). On 12/20/05 (3.33), the Board approved a sole source award to MCI for two buses. On 11/02/10 (3.42), the Board reaffirmed the sole source status of MCI with the purchase of another bus.

There are a number of other advantages to purchasing from MCI. Corrections' Bus Operators prefer the MCI instrumentation panel, and the bus's operating diagnostic prompts facilitate troubleshooting problems on the road. In addition, training costs for both bus operators and bus mechanics are reduced when purchasing vehicles from the same manufacturer.

**Price Reasonableness:**

In 2010, to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) mandated diesel fuel engine changes, MCI passed on to its customers a \$35,000 price increase. The bus that the Department recommends ordering will be equipped with an EPA-compliant Cummins engine that reduces particulate matter exhaust emissions.

MCI has provided a bus price quote of \$516,720.00, with State taxes of \$40,045.80 and a \$15.75 tire tax for a total of \$556,781.55. The bus will also require the installation of interior cages and exterior bars estimated at \$18,500, as well as a \$7,036 800 MHz radio and \$1,232 in miscellaneous equipment cost. The state sales tax for these aftermarket additions is estimated at \$2,074.52. Therefore, the total estimated cost for the fully equipped bus is \$585,624.07. Delivery of the MCI bus is anticipated to be 240 days ARO or sooner.

MCI provided the Sheriff's Department with a letter detailing its recent sales of forty foot buses. Our purchase price is in line with recent purchases of the Kern, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Bernardino Sheriff's Departments.

Date: May 29, 2012  
From: Steven Thetford, Assistant Sheriff Department/Agency: Sheriff's Corrections  
To: Board of Supervisors/Purchasing Agent  
Via: Purchasing Agent  
Subject: Sole Source Procurement of one forty-foot bus for inmate transportation

The below information is provided in support of my Department requesting approval for a sole source. Outside of a duly declared emergency, the time to develop a statement of work or specifications is not in itself justification for sole source.

- 1. Supply/Service being requested:** One forty-foot bus for inmate transportation
- 2. Supplier being requested:** Motor Coach Industries, Inc. (MCI)
- 3. Alternative suppliers that can or might be able to provide supply/service:** None. Based on comparisons of bus performance, the MCI vehicle is the only bus model that can meet the requirements of this specialized transportation service.
- 4. Extent of market search conducted:** County Purchasing conducted nationwide searches in 1999 and 2003, subsequently determining that MCI was the only qualified bidder. In 2004, the Board again approved an award of contract for three replacement buses with MCI (3.21, 12/07/04). On 12/20/05 (3.33), the Board approved a sole source award to MCI for two buses. On 11/02/10 (3.42), the Board reaffirmed the sole source status of MCI with the purchase of another bus.

The Federal Bureau of Corrections also conducted a five year study that concluded the MCI was the most durable bus on the market for special transportation runs.

- 5. Unique features of the supply/service being requested from this supplier, which no alternative supplier can provide:** MCI is the oldest manufacturer of security buses. MCI's proven roadworthiness, chassis life and life cycle costs are superior to other bus manufacturers.

There are a number of other advantages to purchasing from MCI. Corrections' Bus Operators prefer the MCI instrumentation panel, and the bus's operating diagnostic prompts facilitate troubleshooting problems on the road. In addition, training costs for both bus operators and bus mechanics are reduced when purchasing vehicles from the same manufacturer.


- 6. Reasons why my department requires these unique features and what benefit will accrue to the county:** The Sheriff's Department is currently transporting 160,000 inmates annually. The Sheriff's Department must have a bus which is dependable, with superior safety features for this crucial specialized transportation. MCI has manufactured a bus product that is superior to other bus manufacturers, and the firm has created a reputation as the leading bus designer for inmate transportation throughout the nation.

7. **Price Reasonableness including purchase price and any ongoing maintenance or ancillary costs from the supplier:** MCI provided the Sheriff's Department with a letter detailing its recent sales of forty foot buses. Our purchase price is in line with recent purchases of the Los Angeles, San Diego and San Bernardino Sheriff's Departments.
8. **Does moving forward on this product or service further obligate the county to future similar contractual arrangements or any ongoing costs affiliated with this sole source? (Maintenance, support, or upgrades, if so, please explain).** No
9. **Period of Performance:** This is a one-time purchase, and it is anticipated that the bus has a life-expectancy of approximately ten years.

  
 Chief Deputy Signature 5/30/12  
Date

  
 Department Head Signature 5/30/12  
Date

Purchasing Department Comments:

<u>Approve</u>	Approve with Condition/s	Disapprove
Not to exceed: \$ <u>585,624</u>	<u>One time</u>	Annual Amount through _____
 Purchasing Agent	<u>6-4-12</u> Date	<u>12-566</u> Approval Number (Reference on Purchasing Documents)