

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

487



**FROM: FIRE**

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
August 8, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Authorization of Standardization, which allows the Release of a Brand Specific Request for Quotation (RFQ) of the Phenix Technologies, Inc. "First Due" Structure Helmet and parts for Fire Department

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** Move that the Board of Supervisors authorize Standardization and direct the purchasing agent to release a Request for Quotation (RFQ), on behalf of the Fire Department, using the brand specific of Phenix Technologies, Inc. "First Due" Structure Helmet along with Structure Helmet parts and not allow a proposed equivalent product for a total of five (5) years to support the Fire Department's fire suppression mission.

**BACKGROUND:** (continued page 2)

*[Signature]*  
Diane Sinclair, Deputy Director of Admin for  
John R. Hawkins, County Fire Chief

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	13/14

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b> N/A	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:** APPROVE  
BY: *[Signature]*  
Tina Grande  
**County Executive Office Signature**

H. Howdyshell  
 Robert Howdyshell, Director of Purchasing & Fleet Services  
 Purchasing Agent  
 Departmental Concurrence

- Consent
- Policy
- Consent
- Policy

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RECEIVED RIVERSIDE COUNTY

RE: Authorization of Standardization, which allows the Release of a Brand Specific Request for Quotation (RFQ) of the Phenix Technologies, Inc. "First Due" Structure Helmet and parts for Fire Department

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**BACKGROUND: (continued)**

The Purchasing Policy Manual, section 2.20, Equal Clause states that; "whenever reference to a specific brand name is used in the specifications of an RFP or RFQ, it is illustrative and to be construed as a specification which describes a component that has been tested or evaluated by the County as best meeting specific operational, design, performance, maintenance, quality and reliability standards and requirements of the County, thereby incorporating these requirements by reference within the specification. An equivalent ("or equal") may be offered by the bidder, subject to testing or evaluation by the County prior to award of contract." The Fire Department is requesting to standardize on the Phenix Technologies, Inc. "First Due" Structure Fire Helmet and not allow an "or equal" as part of the Request for Quotation (RFQ) process. The Department does not consider the other Helmets available as being equal as outlined below.

For more than twenty (20) years the Riverside County Fire Department has worn the Phenix Technologies, Inc. "First Due" Structure Fire Helmet. We currently have more that 1,500 of these helmets in-service.

The parts for the Phenix Technologies, Inc. "First Due" Structure Fire Helmet are completely "Field Replaceable." The department currently has a large stock of parts for this brand helmet in our warehouse and at each fire station. The Firefighters have the ability to easily repair most parts of the helmet at the fire station without any tools or added clips. Other models require small tools or clips to complete repairs. This easy "Field Replaceable" feature keeps the Firefighters protective gear in service at all times. Standardization will provide no waste of supplies and offer continuity to the protection we provide our firefighters. This helmet will not require any additional training in how to field repair the helmet or in the use of the helmet.

In addition, this brand helmet is lighter in weight than other comparable models and offers the same amount of protection. When wearing a helmet for any duration of time the lighter weight becomes an injury prevention measure.

Phenix Technologies, Inc. is an in-county manufacturer operating out of the City of Riverside. The Riverside County Economic Development Agency Office of Foreign Trade will be launching a domestic and international campaign to promote the purchase of this brand helmet.

Upon approval of this request, a formal RFQ will be completed. This will allow the Department to establish an annual contract and be more efficient in the procurement of these goods.

**PRICE REASONABLENESS:**

The Phenix Technologies, Inc. structure helmet and helmet parts have multiple distributors available to provide competitive pricing to the County of Riverside meeting the County Purchasing Policy and ensuring the County receives the best possible pricing.