



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, August 13, 2013

Council Session

Item G-21

#2013-269 - Approving Sole Source Purchase of State Bridge Software from Imagetrend for the Fire Department

Staff Contact: Cory Schmidt, Fire Chief

Council Agenda Memo

From: Cory Schmidt, Fire Chief
Meeting: August 13, 2013
Subject: Imagetrend Rescue Bridge
Item #'s: G-21
Presenter(s): Russ Blackburn, EMS Division Chief

Background

The Grand Island Fire Department (GIFD) and the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) within the department are required to keep records of emergency calls and our actions at those emergencies. These requirements come from the Nebraska State Fire Marshal and for EMS the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Emergency Medical Services Division (DHHS EMS). In 2005, to make reporting easier, the Nebraska DHHS EMS Division made Imagetrend electric patient care record software available on the internet to all EMS services in Nebraska. This was available because of the Nebraska DHHS EMS Division's purchase of the State Bridge Software from Imagetrend. Grand Island Fire Department made the switch from a self-created database to the Imagetrend software in January of 2006. The department also invested in Imagetrend Field Bridge software which let the paramedics collect data on tablet computers in the field making operations more efficient, and then post their reports to the internet system at a later time.

In 2010 the Nebraska DHHS EMS Division also started to offer fire reporting software through the state Imagetrend software. January of 2011 GIFD started completing fire reports through this system. This allowed sharing of data between fire and EMS reports eliminating multiple entry of the same information. Also in 2011 the department worked with Imagetrend to create an interface that pulled report times directly from the system used by the 911 center to make enter of times faster and more accurate; now tracked to the second.

In May 2013 the Nebraska DHHS EMS Division announced they plan to discontinue offering the fire reporting part of the Imagetrend software in July 2014. GIFD has to find another way to enter state and federally mandated fire reporting information.

The Grand Island Fire Department would like to purchase Imagetrend's Rescue Bridge software. This is essentially the same software we have had available from the state, and designed for reporting of both EMS and fire operations plus other beneficial software.

One of the biggest benefits to the purchase would be local control of validation rules of the data. With the State Bridge software and state control they had to set-up the software so it could be used by multiple departments with different operating procedures. The purchase of the Rescue Bridge software allows us control of the software, letting us choose what additional data is entered, and what data will be mandatory to enter. This control should allow for better reporting and tracking of statistics to improve department operations.

The purchase of the software also gives access to ‘modules’ that we have not had access to in the past. These modules will allow us to combine information in one software platform that we currently track on various software programs, leading to efficiencies. Included in the purchase price are modules for tracking personnel’s daily assignments, and recording training; both currently done by different software. The software also includes an Inventory module; inventory is currently being done on multiple databases with no interoperability. The fire department fire prevention business inspections can be tracked by another module, eliminating another separate program currently used for that purpose.

Discussion

To purchase the software the Grand Island Fire Department needs the City Council to determine Imagetrend Inc. to be the sole source that can supply the software. Like all software Imagetrend’s Rescue Bridge is proprietary. There are other fire department management software programs; one of the most common is Firehouse software. Firehouse software is one of the software platforms we are trying to eliminate with this purchase as it did not work for our EMS reporting and we have stopped using it for fire reporting because of the interoperability of the Imagetrend software for both purposes. We have been using the same Imagetrend software for seven and half years for EMS reporting and two and half years for fire reporting. To continue the use of the software will require us to purchase it, as the Nebraska HHS EMS Division will no longer be supplying the software for our use to report fires. The purchase of the software will allow us to continue using the software that works well for our department and with the purchase will come benefits of greater local control of the software and other ‘modules’ to assist with fire department management and operations.

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platform that we currently track on various software programs, leading to efficiencies. Included in the purchase price are modules for tracking personnel's daily assignments, and recording training; both currently done by different software. The software also includes an Inventory module; inventory is currently being done on multiple databases with no interoperability. The fire department fire prevention business inspections can be tracked by another module, eliminating another separate program currently used for that purpose.

The software, set-up, and training will cost \$22,500 for the first year, with a recurring cost of \$13,500 per year. Imagetrend's business model is to charge \$3.00 per run report entered into their software. As our call volume increases so will the yearly charge for the software and support. All product upgrades and enhancements are covered for the price of the software. The new software can be installed and operational 30 days after the purchase is made. Conversion of data from our current software to the new software will be done at \$125 per hour of work required, that quote is still outstanding at the time this memo is being written. Funds to purchase the software are available in the current 2012-2013 fire department budget.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council determine Imagetrend Inc. to be the sole source available to supply the Rescue Bridge software to the Grand Island Fire Department and approve the purchase of the Imagetrend Inc. Rescue Bridge.

Sample Motion

Move to determine Imagetrend Inc. to be the sole source available to supply the Rescue Bridge software to the Grand Island Fire Department and approve the purchase of the Imagetrend Inc. Rescue Bridge.

RESOLUTION 2013-269

WHEREAS, the Grand Island Fire Department has successfully used Imagetrend Inc. software for reporting emergency medical service and fire response activities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Service Emergency Medical Division will no longer be supplying the Imagetrend fire reporting through the State Bridge software; and

WHEREAS, Imagetrend Inc.'s Rescue Bridge software is proprietary to Imagetrend Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Imagetrend Inc.'s Rescue Bridge will meet the reporting needs plus offer efficiencies in in data collection and other department functions, and

WHEREAS, the funds to make the purchase are available in the current 2012-2013 fire department budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, to designate Imagtrend Inc.to sole source for the software, and allow the Grand Island Fire Department to purchase Imagetrend Inc.'s Rescue Bridge software for \$22,500 for set-up and the first year, with money for data conversion at \$125/ hour, and continuing years use at a fee of \$13,500/ year.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, August 13, 2013.

Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
August 9, 2013	☐ City Attorney