

S T A F F R E P O R T

SUBJECT: Fuel Control System Upgrade

FROM: David Massa, Senior Fleet & Technology Management Specialist

DATE: March 28, 2023

Action Requested

Staff requests that the Finance and Administration Committee recommend to the LAVTA Board of Directors a contract to install upgraded Fuel Control equipment, hardware and software systems.

Background

LAVTA has utilized Ward Fuel Systems since 2009. This system was initially procured through an RFP. The Ward Fuel System is a combination of facility fuel dispensing hardware, and bus hardware, which is integrated into the vehicles engine control system. The system is controlled by a combination of hardware and on-site backend software that work together to allow fast, efficient and secure fueling of the agency's buses. Since 2009, it has functioned flawlessly with zero downtime.

Unfortunately, in early 2022 the bus hardware portion of the system became obsolete and therefore must be upgraded to continue functioning.

Discussion

When a bus pulls up to the fuel island it passes over a ground sensor loop, this transmits the vehicle number and the vehicle mileage to the facility fuel dispenser hardware which in conjunction with the backend software system enables the fuel dispenser. Once fueling is complete, the fuel dispenser transmits the vehicle number, mileage, fuel dispensed and the time of transaction to the backend software system. From there it is stored as well as being exported to the agency's vehicle maintenance tracking software system. The new system is an upgrade but the premise is the same.

In 2016 and 2017 as part of LAVTA's bus procurements the agency had Gillig install the Ward Fuel Systems bus hardware during the production process. During 2022 preproduction meeting with Gillig, staff specified the same hardware be installed. Unfortunately, between the time of that meeting and the time the buses were built, LAVTA was notified that the bus hardware had become obsolete. With no other option, at this time the new 2022 buses are fueled manually, with the data being collected and input by hand.

After completing a cost analysis based upon the original bids received from all bidders, staff has determined that the price received from Ward Fuel Systems is both reasonable and fair. Based upon this and the fact that the original system has proven itself reliable staff recommends that LAVTA procure the upgrade to the existing Ward Fueling system.

Budget

LAVTA staff was unaware of the impending obsolescence of the system when the 2023 budget was created and therefore this expense was not budgeted for. However, LAVTA has funds available within the FY 2023 budget from other projects that are being deferred to FY24. The initial cost for the upgrade is \$127,963.58 with the first year of Software as a service (SAAS) included.

LAVTA has requested a quote so that a total of 3 years of SAAS service will be paid up front. Subsequent years for this service shall be included in future budgets.

Fiscal Impact

From FY 26 forward the SAAS is expected to be approximately \$15,000 per year + a CPI increase.

Next Steps

Upon execution of the agreement with Ward systems, LAVTA will issue a purchase order for the upgrade of the fueling system and SAAS.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Finance & Administration Committee forward a recommendation to the Board of Directors approving a resolution to allow the Executive Director to enter into an Agreement between LAVTA and Ward systems for system upgrade and SAAS.

Attachments:

1. Resolution 12-2023 Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Ward fueling system upgrade.

RESOLUTION NO. 12-2023

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE AN OF UPGRADED WARD FUEL SYSTEMS**

WHEREAS, LAVTA owns a fleet of buses that utilize Ward Fuel Systems to dispense, control access to and track the use of fuel; and

WHEREAS, the original system components have become obsolete; and

WHEREAS, LAVTA's fixed infrastructure is designed to exclusively work with Ward Fuel Management Systems; and

WHEREAS, Ward Fuel Management Systems has provided a quote for all parts and labor necessary to for the upgrade to existing LAVTA infrastructure for \$127,997;

WHEREAS, staff recommends that the Board of Directors award a contract to Ward Fuel Management Systems for the upgrade to LAVTA's existing infrastructure and buses for \$127,997 plus applicable sales tax and shipping.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority that the Executive Director may enter into a contract with Ward Fuel Management Systems for \$127,997 plus applicable sales tax and shipping, for the upgrade to LAVTA's existing infrastructure and buses for \$127,997 plus applicable sales tax and shipping.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 3rd day of April 2023.

David Haubert, Chair

ATTEST:

Christy Wegener, Executive Director

Approved as to form:

Michael Conneran, Legal Counsel