



Council Agenda Report

From: Randy Harris, Deputy Fire Chief

Subject: Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Construction Contract to Newton Construction for the Training Tower Project

CEQA Determination: The City finds that this action has been previously analyzed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Training Center Project as reviewed and approved via Planned Development Permit 21-04 and therefore no additional environmental review is required at this time.

Date: June 17, 2025

Facts

1. On October 1, 2019, the City Council authorized the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement for 2930 Union Road for the purpose of constructing Fire Station No. 3 as well as other essential city operations including a joint public safety training facility.
2. The Insurance Services Offices (ISO) evaluation of the Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Department identified several critical areas in which the City is deficient. One of the largest deficiencies identified was training facilities and use, in which the department received 0 points out of 35 in the category.
3. Additionally, the F&ES Department is unable to meet the annual state-mandated live fire training requirements without a dedicated training facility.
4. In order to address these deficiencies, the City's FY 2024-25 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget includes funds to construct a new 3-story training facility where live fire training can be conducted.
5. On February 18, 2025, the Council awarded a contract to ABI General Engineering in the amount of \$689,797.81 for site improvements including the concrete slab needed to support the training tower.
6. Plans, specifications, and estimates (PS&E) were prepared and advertised for bid. On May 29, 2025, three bids were received as follows:
 - Newton Construction: \$884,000.00
 - Stump Construction: \$1,021,367.93
 - TCB Construction: \$1,289,798.00
7. Staff reviewed the lowest bid from Newton Construction and found it to be a responsive and responsible bid.

Options

1. Take no action;
2. Award a construction contract to Newton Construction to fabricate and install the training tower at the Public Safety Training Center, in the amount of \$884,000; or
3. Provide alternative direction to staff.

Analysis and Conclusions

The City Council authorized the purchase of land at 2930 Union Road in the amount of \$3,425,000 for the construction of Fire Station No. 3 to provide reduced response times to that portion of the City and provide the needed fire flow and training requirements in the recent Insurance Services Offices (ISO) assessment. Additionally, one of the largest deficiencies identified in the ISO evaluation was Training Facilities and Use. In order to be eligible for points in this category, the City needs to have a dedicated training facility. A training facility is a building that live fire training can be conducted, at least three stories in height, and a training area of at least two acres. Each firefighter is required to have 18 hours of such training per year.

The Public Safety Training Center is a vital investment and will enhance the City's ISO rating while enabling our emergency response crews to meet California "live Fire" and P.O.S.T Perishable Skills training requirements. The completion of the Public Safety Training Center is identified as a priority for F&ES Department in both the 2023 Strategic Plan and 2022 Standards of Cover. Once complete, the Public Safety Training Center would be the first of its kind in San Luis Obispo County.

Fiscal Impact

The total cost of the construction contract with Newton Construction is \$884,000. The Public Safety Training Center project was awarded a federal appropriation from Congressman Panetta in the amount of \$500,000. The additional required funds (i.e., Measure J-20) for the project are included in the adopted FY 2024-25 Capital Improvement Program budget. As such, no other action is needed.

CEQA

The City finds that this action has been previously analyzed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Training Center Project as reviewed and approved via Planned Development Permit 21-04. There has been no change in circumstances or conditions and therefore no additional environmental review is required at this time.

Recommendation (Option 2)

Approve Resolution 25-XXX awarding a contract to Newton Construction to fabricate and install the training tower for the Public Safety Training Facility, in the amount of \$884,000, authorizes the City Manager to execute said contract subject to minor, technical, or non-substantive changes to the contract that are approved by the City Attorney and consistent with the Council action.

Attachments

1. Resolution 25-XXX - Awarding a Construction Contract to Newton Construction
2. Newton Construction Bid
3. Training Tower Bid Summary