

Background:

This Sole Source request will provide for the purchase of two (2) 6x6 High Water/Wildfire Rescue Vehicles with a staircase as well as a lift system capable of loading the mobility impaired and transporting up to 28 occupants per load with a 50-inch water fording capability giving the ability to drive in water depths to 50 inches without issue. Recent storm events have shown that there are several areas in Seminole County prone to flash flooding in residential areas that may require the immediate evacuation of hundreds of residents. These vehicles also have a removable 650-gallon skid unit to access remote areas to extinguish brush fires. The upcoming brush fire season is anticipated to be significantly more active due to the amount of dead debris left post-Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Nicole. Additional features also include 47-inch tires, all-wheel drive, and 23 inches of ground clearance.

Acela Truck Company is the only manufacturer able to provide a flood rescue truck with 50" of water fording capability in North America, specifically, the Acela 50" of water fording capability was designed in-house and is proprietary to Acela.

The Budget Amendment Request transfers \$503,000 into capital accounts for the purchase of the capital equipment within the American Rescue Plan Fund.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board waive the procurement process and authorize Sole Source SS-604502-23/TLR - High Water/Wildfire Rescue Vehicles from Acela Truck Company, Bozeman, MT and authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Division to issue the Purchase Order in the amount of \$502,702.66 for two (2) vehicles; and approve and authorize the Chairman to execute a Resolution implementing Budget Amendment Request (BAR) #23-021 in the American Rescue Plan fund and authorize the purchase of capital equipment in the amount of \$503,000.