



# LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

RALPH M. TERRAZAS  
FIRE CHIEF

March 9, 2018

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
FILE NO. 18-030

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:  Ralph M. Terrazas, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR DONATION APPROVAL OF WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER  
WEBGEAR HYDRATION PACKS EQUIPMENT

FINAL ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

## SUMMARY

The Los Angeles Fire Department is submitting a Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation Grant Request Form to request funding for Wildland Firefighter Webgear/Hydration Packs equipment from Mystery Ranch. The attached estimate provides 740 pieces valued at \$169,732.10. This is a three-phased project to purchase the required equipment for all members. This equipment is mandatory personal protective equipment (PPE) that will be assigned to each firefighter in phases. Required PPE's address the significant danger of dehydration and heat related injury and direct catastrophic overrun by uncontrolled wildfire. The equipment is designed to carry the wildland fire shelter and personal hydration pack and may be outfitted to allow attachment of other required wildland firefighting equipment, providing increased safety and operational efficiency, to field firefighters working at wildland incidents.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:

1. Receive this report for the approval of the donation by the Los Angeles Fire Foundation for the items listed above, valued at \$169,732.10, to the Los Angeles Fire Department.
2. Request the Commission Executive Assistant to transmit this report to City Council in accordance with the Los Angeles Administrative Code, Ordinance 15514, Article 12, Section 5.111.4 , for consideration and approval.

## FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the Department's budget from the acceptance of this donation.

**CONCLUSION**

The Los Angeles Fire Department benefits tremendously from gracious donations and support provided by the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation. The Community Liaison Office acknowledges the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation for their generosity.

Board report prepared by Public Information Director Peter Sanders, Community Liaison Office.

Attachment



RALPH M. TERRAZAS  
FIRE CHIEF

March 7, 2018

TO: Peter Sanders, Public Information Director II  
Community Liaison Office

FROM: T. G. Ernst, Assistant Chief  
Brush Steering Committee Chair

SUBJECT: FIRE FOUNDATION REQUEST – WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING WEBGEAR  
HYDRATION PACKS

#### SUMMARY

The proposed equipment – Mystery Ranch Wildland Webgear/Hydration Packs - is submitted for purchase consideration by the Los Angeles Fire Foundation (Foundation). This pack is designed to carry the wildland fire shelter and a personal hydration pack, and may also be outfitted to allow attachment of other required wildland firefighting equipment.

#### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the attached Fire Grant Request for the purchase of Wildland firefighting webgear/hydration packs be approved for forwarding to the Foundation.

#### DISCUSSION

Among the most significant risks faced by wildland firefighters are direct catastrophic overrun by uncontrolled wildfire and dehydration/heat-related injury. Required PPE to address these risks are fire shelters and some form of hydration container, the most common of which is the hydration pack. A hydration pack is a system built as a backpack containing a reservoir or “bladder” with a drinking tube directly accessible to the wearer for frequent use (drinking) while engaged in the involved activity.

Since the late 1990's, the Los Angeles Fire Department has utilized a circa 1960 Federal Supply Service (FSS) web-belt system to carry the wildland fire shelter, and plastic canteen. Current advancements in construction and technology have resulted in webgear systems built onto ergonomic suspension backpacks allowing the wearer to carry more without sacrificing the mobility required by working employees/firefighters. Likewise, the plastic canteen has been largely replaced by reservoir systems that frequently carry up to 3 liters to maximize work/hydration efficiency.

This particular equipment has not been purchased by the LAFD in the past, nor is there available funding through the normal budget process. There is no additional cost associated with this specific purchase.

#### CONCLUSION

In the last ~15 years, the LAFD has made a concerted effort to advance our operational abilities, equipment, and knowledge in the wildland response mission. As early as 2010, the process of field testing an alternate model of wildland webgear started, which has continued through this past fire season, resulting in the recommendation of a superior product. In 2015, a three-phased project was presented to Fire Chief Terrazas which started with approval of a dual-compliant wildland pant (completed 2015), the approval of a new single-layer brush shirt (completed 2016), and the recommendation for a new wildland webgear/hydration system.

The approval of the stated recommendation will start the third phase in the update and improvement of our wildland PPE system, which will directly impact firefighter safety and operational efficiency.



T. G. Ernst, Assistant Chief  
Brush Steering Committee Chair

Attachments:  
Fire Foundation Request Form  
Mystery Ranch Product Quote



LOS ANGELES FIRE  
DEPARTMENT FOUNDATION  
Grant Request Form

FOR FOUNDATION USE ONLY	
Grant Number:	_____
Approved	_____
Denied	_____

Date: February 21, 2018 Amount Requested: \$170,000  
Contact Name: Assistant Chief Tim Ernst Phone: 213-924-3610  
E-mail: Timothy.ernst@lacity.org

Type of funding request (name of program or equipment):

**Wildland Firefighter Webgear / Hydration Pack**

Provide a brief description and the need for the program/equipment/service (use attachment if needed):

**Among the most significant danger posed to wildland firefighters are dehydration/heat-related injury and direct catastrophic overrun by uncontrolled wildfire. The proposed equipment is designed to carry the wildland fire shelter and a personal hydration pack, and may also be outfitted to allow attachment of other required wildland firefighting equipment.**

Is there a fiscal impact to approving this request? (Maintenance costs, monthly service cost, extra equipment or services etc.). Please describe:

**This equipment is proposed as mandatory PPE to be personally assigned to each firefighter. There are no immediate costs for upkeep/upgrade.**

Has this program/equipment/service previously been requested through the city budget? **No**

If yes, list the most recent date of submission and the result: **N/A**

If no, explain the reason why it was not submitted:

**Numerous competing priorities for equipment budget.**

What objectives will be accomplished if the funding is granted?

**Increased safety & operational efficiency by field firefighters working at wildland incidents (i.e., brush, grass fires, etc)**

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Ernst", is written over a horizontal line.

Please attach an itemized list for the expenses or a quote from the equipment manufacturer on the vendor's letterhead including model numbers and total units needed. Upon approval, the foundation will pay the vendor directly.

Any questions regarding Foundation procedures can be directed to the Los Angeles Fire Foundation at 310-552-4139.

You may submit your request by email to [Karen@supportlafdf.org](mailto:Karen@supportlafdf.org), or by fax to 310-552-9052



1750 Evergreen Drive  
Bozeman MT 59715  
US

**Bill To**  
Los Angeles Fire Department  
140 N Ave 19  
Los Angeles CA 90031

**Ship To**  
Los Angeles Fire Department  
140 N Ave 19  
Los Angeles CA 90031

## Estimate

**Date** 2/22/2018  
**Estimate #** ES4847

**Memo**  
**Terms**  
**Shipping Description**  
**Expected Ship Date** 5/31/2018  
**UPC Code (SO)**

Item #	Description	Quantity	Units	Price	Amount	UPC Code
01-10-103395	S18 EX Shift Cal Spec-Black-L	740	Each	225.00	166,500.00	885564172841

<b>Subtotal</b>	166,500.00
<b>Discount (Partner Discount)</b>	-13,320.00
<b>Shipping Cost (UPS® Ground)</b>	2,000.00
<b>Tax (CA_LOS ANGELES CO_EMAR_0 9.5%)</b>	14,552.10
<b>Total</b>	\$169,732.10