

Purchase of Additional Thermal Imaging Cameras (TICs)

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1 Summary

- 1.1 As a result of the increased requirement for the provision of Thermal Image Cameras (TIC) at operational incidents, this report seeks funding to purchase a further 78 of these devices for allocation to all Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service 'frontline' operational fire appliances.

2 Introduction and background

- 2.1 Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) have for in excess of 15 years utilised thermal imagery as an integral part of our operational response strategy and all frontline pumping appliances are now currently equipped with one camera per vehicle. (76 in total). There are also a number of training devices. With the introduction of revised breathing apparatus (BA) operational procedures and the planned commencement of using ultra high pressure lance (UHPL) fire fighting equipment for our fire fighting suppression and tactics, there is now a requirement to increase the number and availability of TICs at incidents.
- 2.2 Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service operating procedures now require all BA apparatus wearers entering a risk area to be equipped with at least one TIC per team for assessing the fire conditions and assisting the BA wearers to locate casualties.
- 2.3 With the introduction of UHPL equipment throughout Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service being planned there is now also a requirement for the Incident Commander (IC) to undertake a thermal scan of the premises involved in the incident as part of their tactical plan considerations to ensure that the UHPL equipment to be used is deployed to the area of most benefit in resolving the incident and also ensuring fire fighter safety when personnel are committed into the building.
- 2.4 With both of the increased requirements for the availability of TICs there is now a need to increase the number of the devices within Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.

3 Requirements

- 3.1 The total number of devices within Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service currently stands at 112 which consist of varying manufacturer's types and models with an average age of between 2 and 12 years in service.
- 3.2 In 2013 following extensive evaluations, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service standardised its TIC purchase and issue to one model. We currently have 38 of the devices in service. A further 78 devices are required to provide an availability of two TICs per frontline appliance.

4 Procurement Process and Replacement Policy

- 4.1 Following the standardisation in HFRS, an extension to the existing procurement framework is available to procure the additional devices and the anticipated replacement policy for all TICs will align to a 10 year 'life' or beyond economical repair if damaged / defective before this time.

5 Resource implications

5.1 Financial Implications

The proposal / requirement to increase the number of TICs within Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service by an additional 78 devices is planned to take place during 2016/17 financial year by means of a 'call off' facility from the manufacturer over the year.

78 devices at £4,245 each, a total of £331,110