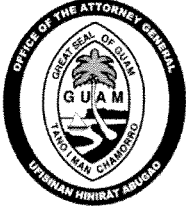


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FILE NO OPA-PA: 13-001

Attorneys for General Services Agency, Department of Administration

**OFFICE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY
PROCUREMENT APPEAL**

In the Appeal of) Docket No. OPA-PA-13-001
)
)
) **DECLARATION**
)
MORRICO EQUIPMENT, LLC)
)
)
Appellant.)
)
_____)

I, John Wusstig, do hereby declare that I am the Acting Fire Chief of the Guam Fire Department. I would like to take this opportunity to address two (2) items that were included in the findings that were issued in **“APPEAL NO: OPA-PA-13-001 DECISION”**.

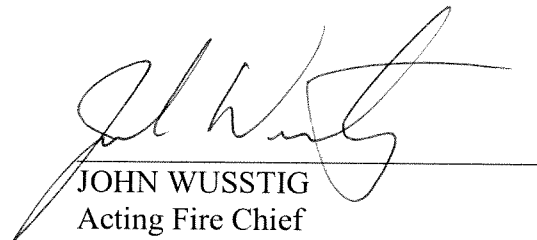
I have sought out assistance from Chief Stanley Torres, who is the President of the Western Pacific Islands Association of Fire Chiefs. He is also the Vice President - Western Division, International Association of Fire Chiefs.

In addition to serving on these boards, Chief Torres is currently employed with the Department of the Navy. His current assignment is Chief of Training, GS-11, at Andersen Air Force Base, Fire and Emergency Services. He’s been serving in this position since January of

2011. Prior to this assignment, Chief Torres was the Fire Chief for the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands for thirteen (13) years. Chief Torres is a certified Department of Defense Fire Officer IV, with more than 30 years of progressively responsible emergency response in aviation safety experience in the United States Armed Forces and local government sector preceded by a career in fire and emergency services.

I have a letter from Chief Torres and the Western Pacific Islands Association of Fire Chiefs that I would like to submit in support of my declaration. I would like to submit this document as "Exhibit A".

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Executed this 15th day of May, 2013.



JOHN WUSSTIG
Acting Fire Chief



WESTERN PACIFIC ISLANDS ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

"To Serve, Lead and Mentor"

445 Dairy Road
Mangilao, Guam 96913
www.wpiafc.com

May 14, 2013

John Wusstig
Acting Fire Chief
Guam Fire Department
Hagatna, Guam 96910

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Dear Chief Wusstig,

This letter is in regards to the "Multi-Step Bid No. GSA-005-13 (New and Current Year, Custom Cab-Forward Pumpers, New and Current Year, Urban/Wildland Interface Pumpers, and 5-Year Extended Service/Maintenance Agreements" and the decision made by the Guam Public Auditor on April 19th, 2013 (Appeal No: OPA-PA-13-001) stating that the Government of GSA violated 2 G.A.R., Div. 4, Chap4. 4103(b)(1)(c) by including two (2) costly and unnecessary inspection trips for two (2) GFD employees in the IFB specifications for the purchase of new fire trucks for the Guam Fire Department.

A new fire apparatus is a substantial capital investment intended to remain operational and provide an expected level of service to the community for the next 15 years, at least. To ensure this happens, it is vital that appropriate acquisition measures are implemented, to include pre-delivery visits to the manufacturer.

Due to the substantial cost, these factory visits are necessary and highly encouraged within the U.S. and international fire services, as well as the Department of Defense. Due to the importance of these trips, they are usually factored into the cost of the apparatus as these trips are accepted industry-wide

Chief Executive Officer of the Western Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and former President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, retired Fire Chief Jeff Johnson stated..."The use of pre-build conferencing and pre-delivery inspection of custom fire apparatus is common industry practice. Because each piece of custom fire apparatus is built from a highly detailed specification sheet, conferencing and inspection insures that the fire department's expectations are fulfilled before shipping apparatus. As one might imagine, it is difficult to return once delivered."

During the preconstruction conference, final details of the purchase are reviewed and approved. Decisions such as location of equipment mounting and size of department lettering are made at this meeting. In addition, any small order changes can be initiated and submitted though the proper approval process. It is necessary to have this meeting at the manufacturer's facility because the salesperson will have all the required documentation, references, and actual apparatus available for the attending firefighters to review.

EXHIBIT "A"



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The final inspection is the most important factory visit, and often required by the manufacturer. As Guam is geographically isolated from the manufacturing facilities, it is very costly to ship apparatus to the island. The final inspection allows a final quality control check prior to shipping. Every item is checked and the condition of the vehicle is determined to provide a baseline for delivery. It is during this trip that road and operational checks are conducted. It also allows the visiting firefighters the chance to witness the pump testing in person.

Therefore, the Western Pacific Islands Association of Fire Chiefs fully supports the Guam Fire Department's IFB specification inclusion of two (2) factory inspection trips for two (2) GFD employees to the preconstruction conference and the final inspection. .

Apparatus have undergone substantial reengineering over the last couple of decades. It is imperative that these changes are witnessed fist-hand. Factory visits are the industry norm for apparatus purchasing. The additional cost in airfare should not prohibit GFD from performing the same level of apparatus review and inspection offered to other departments. By allowing factory visits, GFD will be able to ensure delivery of an apparatus that is properly specified and designed to meet the needs of the department and community for the next 15 years.

Should you need additional information or have any other questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Stanley C. Torres
President
WPIAFC

Cc: Board of Directors, WPIAFC
Fire Chief (Ret.) Jeff Johnson, CEO WFCA