

Meeting of September 6, 2017

South Portland City Council
Position Paper of the City Manager

Subject:

ORDER #46-17/18 – Award of Bid #24-18 to O’Connor GMC, of Augusta, ME for the purchase of two (2) school buses (1 Type “D” and 1 Type “C” Wheelchair) for the School Department. Passage requires majority vote.

Position:

This item is brought forward at the request of the School Department to award a bid for the purchase of two passenger school buses. The School Board approved this purchase at its August 28, 2017 meeting.

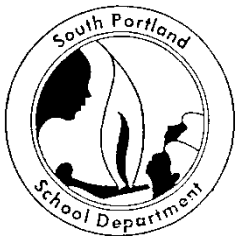
Attached is a memorandum from Director of Transportation, Lisa Gadway, regarding this bid. She will be at Wednesday’s meeting to answer any questions.

Requested Action:

Council passage of ORDER #46-17/18.



City Manager



TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
130 WESCOTT ROAD
SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE 04106-3442



To: City Council, City of South Portland
From: Lisa Gadway, Director of Transportation
RE: Approval for Bid #24-18
Date: August 29, 2017

The budget the South Portland School Department Board of Education and South Portland City Council approved on July 24, 2017 included \$200,000.00 for the purchase of one (1) 84 passenger Type “D” school bus at the cost of \$110,000.00 and one (1) 66 passenger Type “C” wheel chair bus with 3 wheelchair securement stations at the cost of \$90,000. These buses will replace buses used to transport students on a daily route. The expense for these buses will be charged to account 0100-75-0000-2700-900-00-00-773600.

On August 2, 2017, the City of South Portland released bid #24-18 for one (1) 84 passenger Type “D” school bus and one (1) 66 passenger Type “C” wheel chair bus with 3 wheelchair securement stations.

Bids were opened on August 11, 2017 and were as follows:

Vendor / Manufacturer	Type “D” Bus	Type “C” Wheel Chair Bus
W.C. Cressey – Thomas Built Bus	\$108,604.00	\$94,582.00
Dattco Sales – IC Bus	N/A	\$96,564.00
O’Connor – Blue Bird Bus	\$112,561.50 (\$110,923.90)	\$97,000.00 (\$95,362.40)

It should be noted in the bid amounts listed above that O’Connor’s information for radio and video quote from Radio Communications was incorrect. It should have been quoted at \$2,923.90 for each bus. O’Connor’s quote was recorded at \$4,561.50 per unit. This is a difference of \$1,637.60 to be deducted from the O’Connor bid for both vehicle bids. This difference puts O’Connor’s bid at \$110,923.90 for the Type “D” bus and \$95,362.40 for the Type “C” bus.

With regard to the Type C bus, the bids submitted by W.C. Cressey and Dattco did not meet all of the requested specifications, whereas the bid submitted by O’Connor met all requested specifications. One item that the W.C. Cressey bid did not meet in particular was including a front air ride suspension. Neither Thomas buses nor IC buses offer front air ride suspension. Blue Bird is the only manufacturer that offers this option in the Type C bus. My staff and I believe that air ride suspension prevents additional wear and tear on the bus and provides a better ride for students and driver and thus I am recommending that the Type C bus bid be awarded to O’Connor.

“We are dedicated to providing a friendly, safe and secure transportation experience to our students.”

With regard to the Type D bus, both the Thomas bus and the Blue Bird bus met the required specifications. I have contacted other districts and asked for their input on whether there is a difference in the life-expectancy of a Type D bus built by Thomas versus Blue Bird. Similarly, I had an extensive conversation with our mechanic and he and I physically reviewed the differences in construction between a recently built Thomas and Blue Bird bus. Based on the responses I have received from other districts, my consultation with our mechanic, and our combined experience in the industry, it is our opinion that the School Department will experience fewer repairs, better performance, and extended life expectancy from a Blue Bird bus. Although the O'Connor bid is \$2,319.90 more than the W.C. Cressey bid, over a minimum 12 year life expectancy of a Type D bus, I believe this price differential is relatively negligible. For this reason, I recommend the purchase of the Type D bus from O'Connor.

I recommended to the Board of Education, and the Board of Education approved on August 28th, the purchase of these buses from O'Connor Bus Sales. I now request that the City Council approve this purchase as well.

I am happy to answer any additional questions you may have at this time.

Respectfully;

Lisa Gadway
Director of Transportation

"We are dedicated to providing a friendly, safe and secure transportation experience to our students."



CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

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District Five
BRAD FOX

At Large
MAXINE BEECHER

At Large
SUSAN HENDERSON

**IN CITY COUNCIL
ORDER #46-17/18**

ORDERED, that award of Bid #24-18 be and hereby is made to O'Connor GMC, of Augusta, ME, in the amount of two hundred six thousand two hundred eighty-six dollars and thirty cents (\$206,286.30) for the purchase of a 66 passenger Type "C" Wheelchair school bus and an 84 passenger Type "D" school bus for the School Department.

Said amount shall be charged to Account # 0100-75-0000-2700-900-00-00-773600.

Fiscal Note: \$206,286.30

September 6, 2017