

**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

DATE	November 20, 2024
TITLE	Recommendation to Approve Outfitting Helicopters with Longline Equipment to Conduct Aerial Rescues
DIVISION	Public Safety
FROM	Fred Greer, Air Support Unit Sgt./Chief Pilot Roberto Filice, Assistant General Manager, Public Safety and Chief of Police
APPROVED	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager 

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager recommends that the Board Operations Committee approve and recommend to the full Board of Directors to purchase rescue equipment and training package from Boost Systems for a total of \$194,309.

BACKGROUND

The Air Support Unit (ASU) provides the Park District with police and fire support services using two Airbus helicopters. ASU desires to increase our search and rescue capability to further serve park users. We are limited to suitable landing zones and ambulatory patient transport only to nearby Emergency Medical Personnel. We've identified the critical need for expanded services from air support to be able to rescue people from inaccessible areas and provide at least basic life support aid.

ANALYSIS

Our Air Support Unit has helicopters and pilots that are capable of fulfilling the roles of search and rescue. Our Tactical flight Officers have recently obtained Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification. Properly equipping and training the ASU would expand the capability of Public Safety Air Support Unit to find, provide basic treatment, extract and transport injured park users, even from inaccessible areas, and potentially directly to trauma centers.

If the patient requires extraction from a place that cannot support a landing, the only option in the region is to call California Highway Patrol (CHP) from Napa. If they are available, the response time is generally 40 minutes.

Over the past three years, CHP has conducted over 80 rescue and hoist missions in our District. Many of these rescues were conducted with our helicopter already on scene, but not equipped to assist. We can provide this rescue and extraction service in a timelier manner and appropriate for our jurisdiction, if properly equipped and trained.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for this purchase of \$194,309 is allocated in the 2024 Adopted Budget, no additional appropriation is necessary.

The rescue equipment and training package will be provided by Boost Systems, a North Vancouver, BC-based company, founded to provide rescue, industry and public safety teams with the most advanced, fully certified, safe and reliable Human External Cargo (HEC) Systems. Boost is the only manufacturer that has obtained FAA Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) from the FAA for use with the District's Airbus H125 aircraft.

ATTACHMENTS

None.