

**AGENDA COVER MEMO**

**DATE:** February 11, 2004  
**TO:** Lane County Board of Commissioners  
**DEPT:** Public Works  
**PRESENTED BY:** Dale Wendt, Public Works Support Services Manager  
**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** In the Matter of Awarding a Contract to United Rentals in the Amount of \$80,000.00, for the Purchase of One (1), Used Truck-Mounted Bridge Inspection Crane

**I. MOTION**

MOVE TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO UNITED RENTALS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,000.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) USED TRUCK-MOUNTED BRIDGE INSPECTION CRANE.

**II. ISSUE OR PROBLEM**

Shall Lane County approve awarding an \$80,000.00 contract to United Rentals for the purchase of a used truck-mounted bridge inspection crane?

**III. DISCUSSION**

**A. Background**

Lane County Department of Public Works Road Maintenance Division maintains 425 bridges. Historically, the bridges have been inspected for cracks, defects, weathering, and overall condition. The sides and under-bridge inspections have been performed using several methods, including binoculars and contracting out. More recently, due to the sheer-crack issue found on the I-5 bridges, the State has recommended major bridges be monitored much more frequently. Ten County bridges have been placed on the list requiring monthly monitoring with three of these bridges placed on a two-week cycle. Douglas County conducted the first of these inspections at a cost of \$3,000.

Inspection of bridges requires a specialized equipment unit called a "snooper crane", capable of placing two workers under the bridge. Since a new bridge inspection crane costs approximately \$350-400,000, Public Works has chosen to contract out this work. Recently a used snooper crane was advertised in the used equipment market, with a purchase cost of \$80,000. After evaluating the condition of the unit, the Bridge Crew supervisor recommended purchase. Owning a crane would allow the crew to do their own inspections and be more aggressive in conducting routine inspections, and emergency inspections in a more timely manner.

**B. Analysis**

In order to purchase the crane without going to bid County Counsel advised that it would need to be a "sole source" purchase. Fleet Services did a thorough investigation of the used equipment market and found one other unit in the nine Western states. The unit was smaller and would not meet the County's needs (need capability of having two workers in the man-basket). An advertisement soliciting interest in selling "snooper cranes" was placed in the Register-Guard's December 5, 2003 issue. There were no responses.

There are sufficient funds in the Road Fund capital outlay FY03/04 budget for this purchase.

**C. Alternatives/Options**

1. Approve awarding an \$80,000.00 contract to United Rentals. A County owned crane allows the Bridge Crew to do their own routine and emergency inspections, increasing flexibility and reduces the cost of inspections.
2. Do not approve awarding the contract.

**D. Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board approve entering into a contract with United Rentals, for the purchase of the used bridge inspection crane.

**E. Timing**

Upon approval of the Board, a contract will be executed between United Rentals, and the County Administrator.

**IV. IMPLEMENTATION/FOLLOW-UP**

None.

**V. ATTACHMENTS**

Board Order

IN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER

(In the Matter of Awarding a Contract to United  
(Rentals in the Amount of \$80,000, for the  
(Purchase of One (1), Used Truck-Mounted Bridge  
(Inspection Crane.

WHEREAS, due to the sheer-crack issue found on the I-5 bridges, the State has recommended a monthly cycle monitoring of seven County bridges; and two-week cycle for three other bridges; and

WHEREAS, Fleet Services did a thorough search of the used equipment market needed to do this monitoring and found one other unit in the nine Western states which did not meet the County's needs (the capability of having two workers in the man-basket); and

WHEREAS, The Public Works Department solicited interest in selling "snooper cranes" in the Register-Guard on December 5, 2003; and

WHEREAS, there were no responses to the advertisement; and

WHEREAS, United Rentals crane is sole-source; and

WHEREAS, the Road Fund Capital Outlay FY03/04 budget has sufficient funds for this purchase; and

WHEREAS, United Rentals is willing to enter into a contract with Lane County; therefore it is hereby

ORDERED that Lane County award a contract to United Rentals for the purchase of one (1), used Truck-Mounted Bridge Inspection Crane, in an amount of \$80,000 and it is hereby further


ORDERED that the County Administrator be delegated the authority to execute the contract on behalf of the County.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Board of County Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Date 2-3-04 lane county

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
OFFICE OF COUNTY COUNSEL