




The City of
OKLAHOMA CITY

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Wade Gourley
Chief of Police

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sharmanlyne Vickers, Purchasing Agent
Procurement Services Division, Finance Department

FROM: Wade Gourley, Chief of Police 
Oklahoma City Police Department

DATE: September 15, 2022

SUBJECT: Sole Source – Airbus H125 Helicopter

We are requesting the sole source purchase of an Airbus H125 single engine helicopter. This helicopter will be an addition to our existing fleet of two Airbus H125 helicopters. This addition would allow the Air Support Unit to expand mission growth beyond surveillance and routine patrol flights.

Purchasing an Airbus H125 will keep the cost of recurrent flight training around the same amount. Currently, the Air Support Unit spends approximately sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000) annually in recurrent training. If we were to add a different make and model to our fleet, we would need to double our existing annual training budget.

In addition to additional training expenses, the unit would also need to purchase specialized tooling and maintenance stands that are aircraft specific to the model chosen if other than an Airbus H125. The maintenance technicians would also require training on a different model of helicopter. The maintenance schools are two to three weeks in duration, for both the airframe and engine manufactures. Additional tooling and equipment would cost approximately twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).

Additional parts inventory would be required for a new model as parts between different models are not interchangeable. This would require rearranging the current parts room and the purchase of additional shelving and parts bins to accommodate the new inventory. The more models of aircraft you operate the larger your inventory must be. The larger your inventory the more money it costs. There would be a potential issue that vendors might be able to supply parts for one aircraft but not both models as we require our parts vendors to be certified repair stations of the aircraft manufactures.

During heavy inspections, it is not uncommon for an aircraft to be down for several months. This leaves the other aircraft as our only available resource. If anything happens to the available aircraft, the maintenance technicians can take parts off the aircraft in major maintenance to get the other aircraft returned to service. With multiple models of aircraft this would become more complicated, potentially leaving aircraft grounded. The new aircraft will need to be able to seamlessly accept mission equipment that is currently installed on the Air Support Unit's aircraft. This will include

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searchlight, camera, Bambi bucket and external mirrors. Different aircraft utilize different mounting systems for this equipment and don't always align properly.

A smaller aircraft or one that doesn't have the same power to weight ratio as the Airbus H125 will not meet the specifications to perform aerial firefighting requirements.

Finally, it comes down to safety! Our current aircraft's main rotor turns in a clockwise direction. In the event of power failure, the pilot will enter an autorotation. The autorotation is an emergency procedure designed to land the aircraft safely without engine power. During this procedure the pilot must push on left foot pedal to maintain directional control of the aircraft. Other aircraft main rotors turn in the opposite direction. If the pilot was to accidentally push the wrong foot pedal while doing an autorotation, the results would be catastrophic. This has happened in real world situations when pilots are transitioned back and forth between different models of aircraft.

Airbus Helicopters is the original equipment manufacturer of a new AS350B3 (H125) aircraft and Airbus Helicopters, Inc. is the sole authorized seller in the United States of America.

Please let me know if you need any additional information and thank you for your consideration of this sole source purchase request.

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HELICOPTERS

August 10, 2021

Mr. Marc Foreman
Oklahoma City Police Department
5505 South Portland Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73119

RE: AS350B3 (H125) Aircraft

Dear Mr. Foreman,

Airbus Helicopters is the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) of a new AS350B3 (H125) aircraft and Airbus Helicopters, Inc. (AHI) is the sole authorized seller in the United States of America.

AHI is the sole organization authorized to sell on a direct contract basis to Public Service organizations.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 972-641-3455, or via email at christie.white@airbus.com. Thank you for the opportunity to support the important mission of the Oklahoma City Police Department.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:

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Christie White-Mays
Manager, Contract Administration
ph: (972) 641-3455