



City of Racine, Wisconsin
Agenda BRIEFING MEMORADUM

AGENDA DATE:

December 2, 2025 – Common Council

SUBJECT:

This is a communication sponsored by Alder Horton, on behalf of the Assistant Fire Chief, requesting permission to enter into a one-year sole-source contract with Conway Shield. Per the Local 321 Collective Bargaining Agreement, the city is required to supply structural firefighting turnout gear to members of the fire department.

PREPARED BY:

Assistant Fire Chief Brian Wolf

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Fire Department is requesting permission to enter a one-year sole-source contract with Conway Shield per L321 contract language to provide 20% of the department's authorized-strength structural firefighting gear for 2025.

PROJECT BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:

The city negotiated and the Common Council approved purchasing structural firefighting gear for firefighters in the 2020 budget. The program started on January 1, 2021.

Background: In accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Racine and Racine Firefighters, the city is required to supply structural firefighting turnout gear to all members of the department in lieu of a clothing allowance. The fire department considers overall value when selecting turnout gear for its members. Several vendors allowed the fire department the opportunity to wear and test their turnout gear. After careful consideration, Lyons was chosen by the Health and Safety Committee. The components identified in our decision to pursue Globe gear through Conway Shield include cost, safety, usability/wearability, durability, and dealer/manufacturer responsiveness. Turnout gear that does not meet these standards creates safety issues, time out of service, and increases repair and replacement costs in the long run. The fire department's vast experience with various turnout gear dealers and manufacturers gives us confidence that Globes turnout gear purchased through Conway Shield will not create these issues.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

This is a one-year contract with a total cost of \$98,500. Funds are available in account #13001-53240 (clothing expenses) for FY 2026.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommendation is for the Assistant Fire Chief to be granted permission to enter into a one-year sole source contract with Conway Shield to provide 20% of the fire department's authorized strength structural firefighting gear per the Local 321 Collective Bargaining Agreement.