

## Measure Z Funding Request – Purchase and Financing of two Airbus H125 Helicopters

Riverside Police Department

City Council  
November 16, 2021

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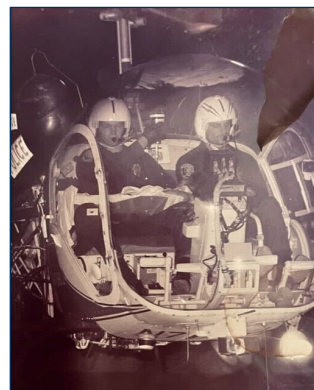
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### RPD – AIR SUPPORT UNIT

The **Mission** of the Riverside Police Department Air Support Unit is to provide aerial support and expertise for the Department's patrol, investigative, administrative and City government needs.

The unit is responsible for enhancing the safety of the community and police personnel through the strategic deployment of airborne technologies.

The Air Support Unit recently celebrated its 50th Year Anniversary of service to the City of Riverside. During this time, the unit has operated 7-days a week / 365 days a year, and is considered an invaluable resource to the City.



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## RPD AIRCRAFT FLEET



### Helicopters

- N911RP – 1995 MD 500E – 13,000 hours
- N951RP – 2008 MD 500E – 6,000 hours

### Airplane

- N903KA – 2011 Cessna T206H – 500 hours



\*Information as of February 2, 2018



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## BACKGROUND

- MD 500s
  - Aging Fleet
  - Struggle to stay current in industry
  - Unable to stalk parts for timely repairs
  - Significant maintenance costs incurring
  - Cost exceeds monetary value of aircraft
  - Increase in unscheduled maintenance is causing unreliability
  - Need to transition to updated rotorcraft platform



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## BACKGROUND

### Maintenance for both existing helicopters

- Past 5-years cost between \$300,000 to \$500,000 per year. (This includes scheduled and unscheduled maintenance)
- Estimated scheduled/expected maintenance to be \$535,542 and \$395,867 for FY 2021/22 & 2022/23
  - Unscheduled maintenance is unknown and is based on unexpected issues that might arise



### Market Value for both existing helicopters

- Current appraised value between \$350,000 and \$450,000
- Maintenance is required more frequently due to age of vessel
- Depreciation in market value with required repairs and age in usage

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## HUGHES/MCDONNELL DOUGLAS (MD)

- New model is MD 500F
- Slightly higher performing engine than current RPD model
- Opportunity for additional weight of RPD equipment
- Higher fuel burn rate decreases flight time
- Offers Auxiliary fuel tank
  - Increases flight time
  - Weight negates additional available power for RPD equipment
- Size of the airframe remains the same
- Primary focus is military consumers



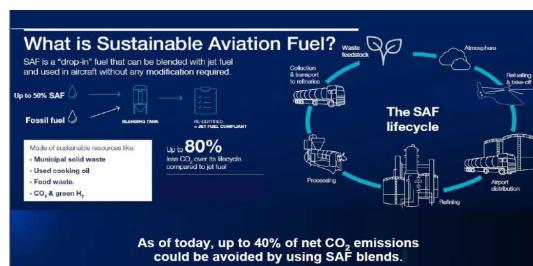
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# AIRBUS H125

- Market leader for law enforcement agencies
- Endurance and speed without use of auxiliary fuel tanks
- Sufficient weight capacity for RPD equipment
- Instrument panel with state-of-the-art technology
- Offers excellent visibility and more air time
- Maintains parts that are readily available
- Multiple mission flexibility
- Ergonomic cockpit
- Sustainable Aviation Fuel



# MD 500E vs. H125

## Mission Specifications and Capabilities

	RPD MD 500's	H125
Available Power	375 HP	847 HP
Useful Load	1,200	2,200
Passengers	3	6
Open Cockpit	No	Yes
Flight Time	2 hours	4 hours
Glass Cockpit/Avionics	No	Yes
FADEC (Digital Engine Control)	No	Yes
Rupture Resistant Fuel Tanks	No	Yes
Ergonomic / Crash Resistant Seats	No	Yes
NVG Compatible	No	Yes
Tactical Insertion	1-2 operators	2-4 operators
<i>RFD Asset</i>		
Fully Med-Evac Capable	No	Yes
Fire Suppression Capability	No	Yes
Hoist/Rescue Capability	No	Yes



## AIRBUS H125

- Safety capabilities and enhancements
  - Glass Cockpit/Avionics
  - Full Authority Digital Engine Control (FADEC)
  - Rupture Resistant Fuel Tanks
  - Ergonomic/Crash Resistant Seats
  - NVG Compatible



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## AIRBUS H125

- Mission Capabilities
  - Tactical Missions
  - Fully Med-Evac Capable
  - Drug and Firearm Interdiction
  - Quality of Life
  - Fire Suppression



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## MULTI-DEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT

- Assist Fire Department with fire mapping, scouting, directing resources, potential for fire suppression, rescues, fireworks enforcement, etc.
- Assist RPU with patrol of critical infrastructure assets by conducting regular flyovers checking for unusual heat signatures on substations, transformers, and other equipment
- Assist Code Enforcement with unsanitary pool detection, abandoned vehicles, illegal dumping, and other concerns
- Assist other CEDD Divisions with site surveys, mapping and flights to provide aerial views of a project area
- Continuous staple in community engagement events and youth programs
- Assist PRCSD with monitoring of the Santa Ana River and the Santa Ana River Bike Trail, parks and other assets



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## MULTI-AGENCY SUPPORT

- Ongoing relationship with Department of Justice Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement
    - Provides funding for personnel, fuel and maintenance cost for requested surveillance activity
    - Any monetary seizures result in a portion of Asset Forfeiture funds directed to RPD
  - Agreement with Corona to assist with patrol operations
    - Reimbursement of \$120,000 for 120 flight hours for FY21-22
  - Potential for Agreement with RCTC for regular facilities check
- Will continue to explore opportunities as they arise



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## COST SUMMARY



- Each Airbus H125 is quoted at **\$5,068,535**
- Additional costs in the amount of **\$640,000** include:
  - Startup-spare part supply
  - Tooling
  - One updated Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) camera
  - Night Vision Goggles
  - Pilot and Mechanic Training
- Total overall cost for 2 helicopters = **\$10,777,070**



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## FINANCING OPTIONS

- Pay-as-you-go approach
  - Pay for entire acquisition upfront
  - Minimizes premature commitment of funds
  - Conserves credit for times of emergency
  - May result in undue burden on present tax payers to finance future needs from which they may not fully benefit
  - May prevent City from doing things they need due to cost
  - Few governments today have the capability



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## FINANCING OPTIONS

- Capital Lease
  - Current low interest rate environment, cost of capital is cheap
  - Could enter a 10 to 15 year lease for helicopter acquisition resulting in a reduction of cash flow
  - Interest could cost between \$928,000 and \$1.6 Million
  - Leaves significant amount of funding in Measure Z Fund Balance for other critical projects
  - If selected, competitive bid process for financing is required



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## STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT



**Community Well-Being** - Airbus H125 helicopters supports the RPD Aviation Units primary purpose to provide aerial support for ground operations in observing, preventing and interdicting criminal activity.



**Environmental Stewardship** - Airbus made helicopters are already certified to run with a blend of as much of 50% Sustainable Aviation Fuel.



**Infrastructure, Mobility & Connectivity** - Additional Airbus features that will make the Aviation Unit more versatile and able to engage in collaborative partnerships within the City and potentially the region.

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## RPD STRATEGIC PLAN



1. Community Collaboration



2. Organization Enhancement and Accountability



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## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

1. Approve the purchase of two Airbus H125 Helicopters in the estimated amount of \$10,777,070 using Measure Z funds; and
2. Approve a purchasing or financing option and allocation of related interest costs, if necessary, for the purchase of the helicopters using Measure Z funding.



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