



## SAN MARCOS FIRE DEPARTMENT

# MEMO

**To: Lynda Williams, Purchasing Manager**

**From: Les Stephens, Fire Chief**

**Date: June 12, 2018**

**Re: Architect for Fire Department Training Facility**

---

### **Request:**

We would like to select Abercrombie Planning and Design to conduct a needs analysis and to design a master plan for the fire department training facility and future airport fire station.

### **Background:**

On May 6, 2017, the citizens of San Marcos approved a bond referendum that included \$2M for the design and construction of a fire department training facility. We have approximately 16.60± acres that is situation between Highway 21 and the San Marcos Regional Airport upon which to construct the project. Although the fire station may not be built for a couple of years, or more, it is imperative to develop a Master Plan that accounts for proper ingress/egress for that facility, as well as the necessary infrastructure for initial and future phases of the training facility itself.

### **Justification:**

Over the past two years we have met with several vendors in person, via the internet, or at their facilities or tradeshow who either do this type of work or who work with vendors in this field. Time and time again, we received recommendations to call and visit with Abercrombie Planning and Design. In my opinion, this is the result of two things; 1) Tommy Abercrombie's professional reputation in this industry and 2) the number and caliber of projects that their firm has been involved in around the world.

We have met with, received a presentation from, toured the manufacturing facilities of, or reviewed literature from the following companies/individuals:

- Fire Facilities.

- FireBlast Global Advanced Fire Training Buildings
- WHP Training Towers
- Fire Training Structures, LLC.
- Drager

In addition to the various vendors we have heard from, we have also had opportunities to visit and tour fire training facilities at the following locations in Texas: Georgetown, Tarrant County College, Collin County College, Fort Worth, Buda, and Richardson. We have also contacted the fire department's project manager for the Denton Public Safety Training Center and the joint facility just completed by Coppell, Addison, Carrollton, and Farmers Branch. Many of these projects were planned by Abercrombie.

RECOMMENDATION: Based on our extensive research and evaluation of other vendors, it is our determination that the experience and expertise Abercrombie Planning and Design has in this field is unparalleled deeming them the most highly qualified provider of these services. We recommend beginning negotiations with Abercrombie Planning and Design to reach a fair and reasonable price. With a very limited budget, we need to make the absolute best use of our funds as well as set up future phases of the project for success.