

ACTION ITEM MEMO

Port of Tacoma Commission



Item No: 6C
Meeting Date: 9/7/23

DATE: September 7, 2023

TO: Port of Tacoma Commission

FROM: Eric Johnson, Executive Director
Sponsor: Sean Eagan, Director, Government Affairs
Project Manager: Leslie Barstow, Manager, Community Relations & Workforce Development

SUBJECT: ILA Between the Bethel School District and the Port of Tacoma

A. ACTION REQUESTED

Request authorization by the Port of Tacoma Commission for the Executive Director or his designee to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the Bethel School District authorizing \$14,250 towards the purchase of an AugmentedArc Augmented Reality Welding System to teach aluminum welding at the Pierce County Skills Center.

Strategic Plan Initiative: EV-4

B. BACKGROUND

- In 2021, the Port of Tacoma Commission adopted a five-year strategic plan that includes a strategy calling on the Port to partner with regional organizations to facilitate career development and business growth in Pierce County (Economic Vitality Strategy 4)
- The Commission went on in February 2022 to adopt Resolution 2022-03-PT in which it found that workforce development is critical to achieving the Port's primary mission to serve as an economic development agency generating quality, family-wage jobs and economic growth for the region and increasing operational efficiency and economic mobility. The resolution found the Port of Tacoma's overarching workforce development objective is to ensure that the maritime industry has access to workers who have the necessary skills to provide safe and efficient maritime services and that the workers have opportunities to acquire the skills and education they need to secure increasingly complex and better compensated jobs.
- On November 17, 2022, the Port of Tacoma Commission adopted the Workforce Development Strategic Plan.
- That same day the Commission amended the 2023 budget to increase Port spending on workforce development by 25%, or \$42,500. The Commission did not, however, specify where to spend the additional funding. Port staff subsequently sought a recommendation

from the Workforce Development Committee, which includes Commissioners Keller and Ang, as to where to direct these funds.

- One area uncovered in the research prior to the development of the Port of Tacoma’s Workforce Development Strategic Plan was the need for aluminum welding education in Pierce County. Numerous Port Tenants and Tideflats businesses have expressed the need to hire employees with aluminum welding training.
- The AugmentedArc Augmented Reality Welding System has been identified as training tool that can effectively train aluminum welding without wasting materials.

C. SCOPE OF WORK

This ILA is a one-time authorization request for the authorization of \$14,250 for the Bethel School District towards the purchase of an AugmentedArc Augmented Reality Welding System to teach aluminum welding at the Pierce County Skills Center.

D. TIMEFRAME/PROJECT SCHEDULE

This ILA is a one-time authorization request. Equipment would be purchased during the current year.

E. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Cost \$14,250.

Source of Funds: Operating Budget, Government and Community Affairs Department, Other Operating Expenses

F. ECONOMIC INVESTMENT / JOB CREATION

This training will lead to opportunities for Pierce County Skills Center students to be placed in jobs with Tideflats businesses.

G. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS / REVIEW

n/a

H. ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

If this is not approved, there will still be no opportunities for aluminum welding training in Pierce County.

I. NEXT STEPS

Upon execution of the ILA, the equipment will be purchased.