

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 6, 1988

PURCHASE OF
AUTOMOTIVE
DIAGNOSTIC
ANALYZER
APPROVED

CC-20
cc-47

The City Council authorized the purchase of a Gear Automotive Diagnostic Analyzer under the provisions of Section 3.20.070 of the Lodi Municipal Code.

Council was informed that the 1987/88 Budget included \$19,800 for the purchase of an automotive diagnostic analyzer for the Equipment Maintenance Shop. There are presently three analyzers on the market. Shop personnel have had in-house hands-on demonstrations on two analyzers, the Bear and the Allen. The Sun analyzer, which was not available for demonstration, is a new model with no history. From what Staff can determine, the Sun would not be up-gradeable to meet changes that will be taking place within the next year or two and would be outdated within a short time.

The Bear analyzer has features that the other analyzers do not have and which are needed in our operation. These features include:

1. A front end adapter for aligning on the scope.
2. The ability to interface with the City's IBM computer system.
3. The ability to test batteries on the shelf as well as in the vehicle.
4. An 80-column printer which uses 8 1/2" paper with standard printing and the diagnosis completely spelled out versus a 40-column printer which uses 4" paper with hard to read print and the diagnosis given in abbreviations and referral numbers.

In addition to these items which the other analyzers do not have, the Bear was also much easier to use and to understand than the Allen. The Bear's resistance (OHMS) sensitivity range allows greater flexibility than the Allen. San Joaquin County and Caltrans are presently using the Bear and are very satisfied with its operation. The City of Stockton, however, purchased an Allen but is not satisfied with the Allen and finds that it is too sensitive for municipal operations.

These analyzers are not handled through dealers. They are sold by the manufacturer's area representatives. Because the city's specifications would be written around the Bear, we would receive only one bid. Staff asked that the City Council approve the purchase of the Bear Automotive