

Proposal to Replace Squad 60

Issue

Currently we are utilizing a 1985 military surplus Chevy Blazer as our Squad. The Squad is a utility vehicle that is utilized to move firefighters back and forth from scenes, stands by for scenes in inclement weather so that our apparatus that have water do not freeze, and a general utility vehicle. The Blazer was won through a grant and does not belong to us. We have made it work for many years although it has had several reoccurring service issues. Freddy from the town has had to work on this vehicle more and more frequently regardless of the preventative maintenance track we have stayed up on. Recently it has turned more dramatically. It is now leaking a significant amount of oil, leaking antifreeze, is throwing the main belt due to misaligned items in the pulleys, continues to lose glow plugs and is starting to acquire a more aggressive amount of rust. Asst. Chief Strunck and I's concerns are that this will end up leaving our firefighters somewhere on an emergency scene, on the way to an emergency scene or out of town when at trainings. We both personally feel that for the money we are looking at investing in this apparatus to get it completely rectified will far exceed its life, not mentioning that it is not our vehicle.

Proposal

Purchase a New Squad / Outfit over this year and next year

Approval is being sought for the purchase of a 2017 crew cab dual rear tire truck with a utility bed mounted onto the chassis. After extensive research by a panel of firefighters, we have decided that this would be the best course of action. Our full outlook on implementation is as follows: purchase the apparatus itself out of this year's budgetary monies, and then equip and install lights, radios, skid unit, lettering and tools out of next year's budgetary monies.

After market research, cost-benefit analysis, field testing and referencing several mechanics professional opinions we feel that the Ford F-350 is our best overall value. The quotes for a Chevy, Ford and Dodge of comparative figures ranged from \$48,684 through \$54,624. The Ford F-350 including the utility bed came in at \$49,535.00. It is in the lower range of the quote range but meets our needs.

Rationale

The primary rationale for the Squad replacement is the cost/benefit analysis of repairing habitual maintenance issues and the impending serious issues that appear to be cropping up. Upon replacement of this apparatus by going to a truck and utility bed setup it allows us to put into place a more comprehensive vehicle for the department as well. Going into the new year and outfitting this truck it will be a sister to T-69. T-69 is our primary medical vehicle and brush truck, it handles 70-75% of our call volume. By outfitting the Squad in this manner, we can rotate it into the mix on the medical runs and significantly reduce the workload and extend longevity of that apparatus. It would also offer a secondary brush truck to attack and extinguish field fires more effectively. In addition to this, it will provide a secondary apparatus to be able to haul the utility trailers we currently have safely. The current squad is incapable of hauling our hazmat trailer safely.

By splitting it over the fiscal years we will be able to work all the cost into our annual budgets.

Cost

Total costs will be no more than \$49,535.00 this fiscal year.

This will include Cab, Chassis and Utility Bed painted red. We will be able to pay this amount in full by utilizing the unspent monies from the salary and wages and transferring them over to capital outlays. Assistant Chief Strunck and I have been monitoring this situation and due to running with a reduced force of firefighters we have additional monies in this category.

Next year's costs will be approximately 20-25,000 in total

These costs will include a skid unit, medical supplies, lettering and striping, nozzles, adapters, installation, and transferring over radios, and iPads from the Squad in service currently.