

Proposal to Purchase 2 New Apparatus

Issue

Our current apparatus are over the NFPA guidelines for operation. We have a Tanker that is 25 years old, an Engine that is 28 years old and a Rescue that is 21 years old. The NFPA guideline is to remove apparatus from service at the age of 25 years due to maintenance and safety recommendations. With that in mind, the Rescue takes a larger run volume than the other two apparatus and typically the runs distance is greater as well.

Proposal

Purchase 2 new apparatus to replace the three mentioned above, move the tanker to reserve status.

Approval is being sought for the purchase of 2 new apparatus. One of these would be a Pumper/Rescue and the other would be a Pumper/Tanker. This would allow us to move these into front line operations, maintain our standard of operations and downsize the fleet by one apparatus. The tanker would move to a reserve status in case something was to go out of service in the fleet and provide us the opportunity to have the additional water hauling capabilities if absolutely necessary.

Rationale

Our current units as stated are coming to their end of life. The maintenance cost on these apparatus are consistently increasing and have several issues that are approaching that will cost a large amount of money. For example, at the current time the rescue air braking system needs to be retrofitted and completely redone as it has leaks throughout that allow it to bleed off if not connected to an air compressor constantly when in station. The engine, rescue and tanker have all had their pumps repacked multiple times and they are getting to that point again as well. The cost on doing these items and putting it into uncompliant apparatus we do not feel is the most fiscally responsible choice currently.

Additional Information

The cost of apparatus is constantly increasing. In the time that we have put together the specifications for these two apparatuses the price has increased approximately 7% due to metal, rubber and shipping increases. They are going to go up an additional 2.5% per the manufacturer in the next 15 days.

We have used our ability of being a Sourcewell member discount along with Hoosier Fire being a member to gain a \$38,969 discount on one apparatus and a \$36,208 discount on the other.

Sourcewell contracting allows us to not have to incur the bid process delays and needs as they are already guaranteeing the best prices through this mechanism.

Hoosier Fire is the only apparatus vendor that provided us with the option of an additional \$8,250 multi apparatus discount. We are looking at a current build time if ordered today of 395 days.

We feel that the department membership and leadership are being proactive in a single apparatus fleet reduction and restructuring the apparatus in such a way to accomplish three apparatus responsibilities into two. This lightens the financial burden that we would be looking at to the point that it is manageable as explained below.

Cost

Total cost for both apparatus \$1,394,223

Initially this cost can seem very ominous, but we as the administration of the fire department feel that with our current mindset of being extremely fiscally responsible and looking towards this issue that it can be addressed without asking for additional monies. From running the numbers with Lance in generals it appears we would be looking at anywhere from an 85,000 to 110,000 annual payment combined. With that being said, we reestablished the cume fund last year which should net approximately 90,000 of annual intake. We would have the SCBA lease payment coming out of this amount, along with that the 60,000 of hydrant rentals fees were redistributed to the fire department last year as well.

This would take care of the additional monies. We are also reallocating 40,000 of the current budget if needed to potential apparatus payments if it is necessary. This should more than cover the cost of the apparatus within our current budget numbers. Our plan would be to take as much of the payment out of our operating budget while trying to leave as much in the cume fund as possible. This will allow that fund to build through coming years to set us up into a more proactive approach in coming years.

Additionally, we have had multiple conversations with Pete and he feels in a couple years we can lighten this amount on the fire department annual budget by leveraging the Public Safety LOIT funds as they will be increasing over the cost of the current town building payments. When these monies started to be accessible to us it would provide us the opportunity to leave more of the cume fund in place as well thus increasing that to a point that hopefully we can start getting ahead of the fleet age in a much more proactive manner. As the budget increases over the coming years as well this should also lighten the impact it would have on the cume fund.

Summary

The fire department fleet is aging to the point of non-compliance and the leadership sees this as a very important issue. When the Town and Township were separate entities, they purchased multiple apparatus at the same time and thus put the current leadership in a position where multiple apparatus are coming of age all at the same time. We are looking at over a year of build time on these and the cost is consistently increasing at a higher level than what we are going to be able to absorb within our budget. We are asking that the Town Council looks at the rationale laid out above along with the explanation of why our leadership feels this is important. We feel that with the time and effort that has been invested into how to finance these apparatus in a manner that will be consistent with moving us forward while keeping it within the confines of our budget ability.