City of Waukesha

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Steven Howard, Acting Chief

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October 14, 2014

Mr. Joe Pieper, Chairman
Finance Committee
1011 W. Glenn Drive
Waukesha, WI 53188

SUBJECT: **REQUEST FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF REPLACEMENT LADDER TRUCK PURCHASE TO BE ORDERED IN 2015 AND DELIVERED AND PAID FOR IN 2016**

ear Chairman Pieper:

As part of the adoption of the 2015 Capital Improvement Budget, the City of Waukesha Fire Department is seeking approval for the purchase of a replacement ladder truck in the amount of $1,055,700. This figure includes all costs associated with the purchase of a ladder truck, replacement of equipment and the installation of radios and computers. The cost is based on ordering a ladder truck from Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. through Reliant Fire Apparatus prior to March 30, 2015. Delivery of the completed vehicle would be scheduled for March of 2016.

By purchasing the vehicle in this manner, the City would receive an approximate discount of $15,800 by making pre-delivery payments in January and February of 2016. By committing to purchasing this vehicle in 2014 and ordering the vehicle in 2015, we can avoid an approximate $100,000 price increase if the purchase of this identical vehicle was delayed until 2016. For your reference, I have attached a spreadsheet detailing price increases. It should be noted that the 2016 price does not include the impact of new NFPA standards that will become effective January 1, 2016. At this time, it is very difficult to quantify the impact of the new standards. Based on current drafts of the standards, we anticipate a minimum increase of 3%.

The replacement of our 1992 E-One platform/ladder truck (Ladder 1, Fleet #921) has been delayed since 2012 due to budget constraints. In 2013, the Department spent approximately $24,000 on repairs and maintenance for this vehicle. Although the vehicle is currently roadworthy, mechanics have identified ongoing concerns regarding the condition of the vehicle's wiring, hydraulic systems and other mechanical issues. The exterior of the vehicle is in good condition; however, both the mechanical and electrical systems and structure of the vehicle is showing age.

The delay in replacing this vehicle has made it necessary for us to extend the front line service life of the 2001 ladder truck assigned to Fire Station #2 (Ladder 2, fleet #012). Although this vehicle has been very reliable, it too is beginning to show its age, resulting in increased maintenance costs and repairs. The total cost for maintenance and testing of Ladder 2 was approximately $12,000 in 2012 and $16,000 in 2013. To date, we have spent approximately $18,000 maintaining this vehicle. Ideally, this vehicle would have seen 10 years of front line use with a reserve life of an additional 10 years. Continued use of this vehicle in a front line capacity may reduce its service life below 20 years. The wear and increasing costs of maintaining Ladder 2 further illustrates the need to replace the Ladder 1.

As part of the ongoing discussions regarding the replacement of this vehicle, questions have been raised as to why the Department operates three ladder trucks. The operation of two front line "quint" ladder trucks and one reserve ladder truck is a result of the strategic planning done by the Common Council and the Fire Department over the past 10 years.

History of Deployment Model

The Waukesha Fire Department came to utilize the current equipment and personnel staffing model in February of 2009, with the opening of Fire Station 5. Up to that point the Department operated a traditional staffing and equipment model with every station having an engine company assigned to it with a dedicated ladder company at station 1 that responded exclusively to fire calls to perform ladder truck work. In the planning for the new additional fire station, Station 5, the Department had proposed adding an additional 18 staff members to open and continue the traditional staffing and equipment deployment model. The Common Council determined that maintaining this model was not possible, and requested Fire Department Staff to look for a different deployment model. Fire Department Staff proposed switching to a Quint Concept for a staffing and equipment deployment model, this switch would only require the hiring of an additional 9 firefighters, but required the department to purchase and maintain an additional Ladder Truck (Ladder 5). The Department would then begin a redeployment strategy for all existing station and apparatus.

The approval of the plan by Council meant the redeployment of the existing ladder truck at Station 1 to Station 2, along with the new ladder at Station 5 and then locating engines at Stations 1, 3 and 4. As part of this proposal Fire Department Staff analyzed the department's needs and researched across the nation what the appropriate ratio or amount of reserve apparatus to front line apparatus should be. The staffs research led to a change and a reduction in or reserve apparatus fleet, reducing our reserve apparatus fleet from three Engines and one Ladder to our current apparatus reserve fleet of two reserve Engines and one Reserve Ladder. This strategy of having two ladders and three engines strategically located throughout the City that would be delivering both Fire and EMS services has been our successful model allowing our City to maintain our coveted ISO Class 2 designation for our community.

Why three Ladders in the Fleet?

The Department utilizes it's fleet of three ladders to ensure that two ladders are in service to function as the first-out, front-line apparatus. The two newest ladders are run as the first out apparatus at Station 5 (Ladder 5-2008) and 2 (Ladder 2-2001). The third ladder is utilized when maintenance is being performed on either of the two front line ladders or when there is an incident that requires the call back and staffing of additional apparatus; i.e. a Fire where both ladders are committed to the scene of an emergency. The department has contacted our neighboring communities to see if any of them would be interested in sharing a reserve fleet, but at this time there are no departments who have expressed interest. Since our community has chosen to utilize the Quint concept to provide both fire and emergency medical services to our community, either ladder could be tied up on a different call for service when a fire incident could require the tools and equipment that are only

carried on the ladder. This would require the department to request mutual aid from one of our neighboring communities, unfortunately none of our neighboring communities currently staff their ladders with assigned personnel that are in house. This, combined with the inherit delays caused by requesting mutual aid between the two dispatch centers, would result in some significant delays to getting a mutual aid ladder company into our community.

The Role of Ladder trucks

A fire engine is a fire suppression vehicle that has a water, pump and, typically, is designed to carry fire hose and a supply of water. A ladder company is a vehicle that's primary duty is to supply ladders and specialized tools to a fire scene (note: fire engines and ladder trucks are paired with an ambulance to build a crew of 5 persons for firefighting operations). In most cases the primary role of the ladder company is to perform rescue operations, ventilation, raise ladders to all floors of the building, control the building utilities and ensure that a building has been completely searched at a structure fire. The quint concept, the quint fire apparatus is designed to provide five tools for firefighters to carry out these tactical firefighting functions, that is supply fires streams (pump and hoses), provide initial and continuing water supply (pump, water tank, and hoses), provide personnel with access to elevated areas (ground ladder complement and aerial device), and provide elevated master fire stream (pump, hose, and aerial device) as defined by NFPA standards.

The Fire Department fully realizes this piece of very specialized fire apparatus is costly and represents a substantial investment by the City in public safety. The use of the five station "quint" concept allowed the city to avoid the cost of hiring nine additional firefighters, resulting in an approximate savings of $900,000 per year. If the Council is committed to maintaining our current operations and committed to purchasing a ladder truck in 2016, purchasing the vehicle now would allow us to avoid an approximate $100,000 price increase. The vehicle needs to be approved in the 2015 budget, ordered by March 30th 2015 and delivered and paid for in 2016 to realize the savings.

Sincerely,

Acting Chief Steve Howard

cc: Mayor Shawn Reilly
Ed Henschel, City Administrator
Rich Abbott, Finance Director
Common Council Members

attachments

CURRENT PRICE IF ENTERED BY 3/30/15	Discount Amount	Net Contract Amount
Total Contract Price (amount due at pickup without any advance payments)		$1,012,530
Chassis Payment 90 Day Before Final Pickup $378,213	-$11,346	$1,001,184
Aerial Payment due 60 days Before Final Pickup $218,785	-$4,507	$996,677

PRICE IF ENTERED AFTER 3/30/15 BUT PRIOR TO NEXT INCREASE	Discount Amount	Net Contract Amount
Total Contract Price (amount due at pickup without any advance payments)		$1,082,616
Chassis Payment 90 Day Before Final Pickup $386,075	-$11,582	$1,071,034
Aerial Payment due 60 days Before Final Pickup $284,349	-$5,686	$1,065,348

PRICE IF ORDERED AFTER NEXT PRICE INCREASE (2016)	Discount Amount	Net Contract Amount
Total Contract Price (amount due at pickup without any advance payments)		$1,114,795
Chassis Payment 90 Day Before Final Pickup $397,657	-$11,930	$1,102,865
Aerial Payment due 60 days Before Final Pickup $292,879	-$5,857	$1,097,008