

**CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: May 6, 2024  
Reviewed by: NA

**SUBJECT:** Fire Department Ambulance Purchase

**REPORT BY:** John Weitzel, Fire Captain  
James Boito, Fire Chief

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**SUMMARY**

The item before the Council is the authorization to purchase one (1) Horton 457F Type-1 2WD Custom Ambulance Mounted on a Ford F-450 4x2 ambulance prep Diesel Chassis to replace our current reserve ambulance.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council adopt Resolution No. 2024-22:

1. Authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Professional Sales and Service, LLC., to purchase one (1) Horton 457F Type-1 2WD Custom Ambulance Mounted on a Ford F-450 4x2 ambulance prep Diesel Chassis, for a price not to exceed \$393,690.03, which includes sales tax of 10.75%; and
2. Transfer \$283,780 from Fund 2205 (Fire Equipment Reserve Fund) to the EMS Equipment Reserve Fund (2204), resulting in a total balance of \$393,690.03 in the EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Equipment Reserve Fund to support the cost of the ambulance purchase.

**BACKGROUND**

The Albany Fire Department currently uses two ambulances. One ambulance is used on all medical emergencies while the other is placed in reserve. It is necessary to have a reserve ambulance in the event that the primary ambulance experiences a mechanical problem or needs preventative maintenance. The reserve ambulance is also used when there are no ambulances available to respond in Albany or when multiple ambulances are needed for a specific emergency.

The advised cycle for replacement of an ambulance is every seven years; allowing for seven years as the “front-line” ambulance and seven years in reserve status, for a total of 14 years.

In recent years, the department received a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program in 2014 to purchase an ambulance and repowered a used 2006 E-450 ambulance from Piedmont Fire Department.

## **DISCUSSION**

The department currently has a 2014 International Navistar and a 2006 Ford E-450 ambulance serving as the primary ambulance while the 2006 Ford E-450 is the reserve ambulance. The 2014 International Navistar ambulance has incurred greater maintenance expenses over the last several years and has exceeded its expected length of service as the primary ambulance. The purchase of the 2006 Ford E-450 ambulance was an opportunity for the Fire Department to decommission the reserve ambulance, a 1999 Ford E-350, and purchase a more reliable unit, at a minimal cost. This purchase, in 2019, was an inexpensive bridge to save more funds for a new ambulance.

It is vital the Department has two dependable ambulances available to serve the community. The 2014 International Navistar and 2006 Ford E-450 ambulances are currently operational, though they are becoming less reliable and require more expensive repairs.

The proposed ambulance, manufactured by Professional Sales and Service, LLC., has been competitively bid for by other agencies through Sourcewell contract number 122123-RVG for co-operative purchasing. The City of Albany is currently a member of Sourcewell, the use of Sourcewell will provide the City with a 3% savings on this purchase.

## **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

The proposed ambulance will be fueled by renewable diesel. Renewable diesel is produced using renewable, organic oils (e.g. canola oil), in contrast to petroleum gasoline or petroleum-based diesel. Renewable diesel is also distinct from “biodiesel.” The two are both made from organic oils, but they are processed differently, and biodiesel needs to be blended with petroleum. The lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions of all four types of fuel can vary considerably, but emissions from renewable diesel can be up to 80% lower than petroleum diesel and gasoline.

Starting this year, local governments are required by the California Air Resources Board Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation to ensure that 50% of annual vehicle purchases are zero-emission vehicles. This increases to 100% by 2027. However, emergency vehicles are exempt from the requirement, so this vehicle purchase would not be affected.

## **SOCIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSIVITY CONSIDERATIONS**

N/A.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The cost for the ambulance is not to exceed \$393,690.03, which includes sales tax of 10.75%. The payment is due upon receipt and acceptance of the ambulance, approximately 14 months from signing the purchase contract.

There are two reserve funds that have been established related to Fire and EMS Equipment (Funds 2204 and 2205). The balances in those funds are: \$103,750 and \$361,063 respectively for a total of \$464,813 which will provide sufficient funding for the ambulance purchase.

Specifically, the recommendation would be to transfer \$283,780 from Fund 2205 (Fire Equipment Reserve Fund) to the EMS Equipment Reserve Fund (2204). This would provide sufficient funding for the ambulance purchase of \$393,690.03 in the EMS Equipment Reserve Fund. Payment is not required until the ambulance is received, but the funding would be set aside for the purchase in the reserve fund. This would still leave \$70,940.22 in the Fire Equipment Reserve for future needs.

It should be noted that the City Council may choose to allocate additional funds to these reserves between the time the equipment is ordered and when it is received, and payment made (anticipated in the second quarter of FY2025/26). Transferring the funds now to the appropriate reserve will ensure that even if additional funds are not allocated to the EMS Equipment Reserve, sufficient funds will be available for the purchase.

## **Attachments**

1. Resolution No. 2024-22
2. Ambulance Quote
3. Sourcewell RFP# 122123