



## **Staff Report**

For City Council Meeting - 2/5/2025

### ***Subject - New Business - Fire Department - Request for Funds***

**Synopsis:** This is a request for reserve funds up to \$85,000 to purchase and upfit one new fire department vehicle. He has provided the following information to delineate his request:

### **Proposal to Allocate Apparatus and Equipment Reserve Funds for Staff Vehicle Replacement**

I am seeking Council approval to allocate funds to replace one of my two outdated staff vehicles (up to \$85,000) from the Apparatus and Equipment Reserve fund. The reserve fund has a balance of \$453,626, and this allocation will still leave a substantial amount available for other needs that may arise in the future.

I've delayed bringing it forward due to the high cost. However, after monitoring pricing trends, refining a budget limited to essential items, and exploring cost-saving measures (including reusing equipment and handling installation in-house), I believe this is the most economical approach to meet the department's needs.

### **Replacement Context and Industry Standards**

- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA): NFPA standards recommend replacing staff vehicles every 8–10 years.
- FEMA Guidelines: Align with a replacement window of 8–10 years, after which vehicles are downgraded to secondary roles such as duty or specialty use.
- Common Practice: Most fire departments aim to rotate staff vehicles into lighter duty after 6–8 years, maintaining the primary replacement cycle at 8–10 years.

Our two current staff vehicles are significantly past replacement timelines:

- **2962** (2007 GMC Yukon): 17 years old (Leaks water, has mechanical degradation, burns oil, as well as other wear and tear issues. This apparatus has exceeded its useful life and we have gotten our value out of it. I have done all the repairs I can do to limp it along.)
- **2961** (2008 Ford F-250): 16 years old (This apparatus also has mechanical issues, and engine tick/knock has potential to throw a rod soon. I believe we have gotten our value out of it as well.)

These vehicles should have been replaced 7–8 years ago to maintain reliability, safety, and operational efficiency. If both cannot be replaced simultaneously, replacing 2962 is the higher priority.

### **Cost Comparison and Financial Prudence**

Recent purchases by neighboring departments justify the amount of this request:

- Astoria Fire Department: Purchased a staff vehicle for \$100,000 (fully outfitted).
- Seaside Fire Department: Spent approximately \$80,000, completing installation and wiring in-house.

### **Proposed Budget for Replacement**

To keep costs low, I have prioritized essential items and will reuse existing equipment wherever feasible:

- Vehicle: \$55,000
- Lights and siren package: \$8,000
- Radios (two units): \$8,000
- Center console: \$2,000
- Canopy: \$4,000
- Bed storage system: \$2,000
- Wiring and installation: \$3,000–5,000

### **Total Estimate: Up to \$85,000**

In an attempt to save money in the short term, I am proposing replacing one vehicle now (2962) and the other later (2961).

This new vehicle will significantly improve operational reliability, safety, and response capability, aligning with national standards and best practices. Additionally, allocating reserve funds ensures no impact on our operating budget while preserving substantial resources for future needs.

Outdated staff vehicles will continue to be a drain on the budget if kept in service. The replaced vehicle will be sold using the same process as selling one of the Public Works vehicles. The funds brought in from selling will be put in the same budget line we are using to purchase the

new one. The new vehicle will come with a warranty. Deployments have brought in enough funds to purchase the vehicle alone. Electric vehicles are not an option due to many factors; Mainly, not having access to charging while on the scene for hours or while deployed. The next fire apparatus on the replacement list would be our reserve apparatus that is located at our sub station. I have about 4 different avenues to replace this in the coming years.

- grants (2 different potential opportunities)

- split funding between us and the rural fire district

- in time, after exhausting all options, a government loan program may be looked at; Which is the same way our current engine (2921) was funded.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chief Como

**Recommended Motion:** Staff recommends Council motion to approve the Chief's request for reserve funds up to \$85,000 to purchase and upfit a new department vehicle with vendor selection at the department's discretion.

**Legal Analysis:** The Chief follows Oregon purchasing laws. Multiple bids will be collected.

**Financial Analysis:** There is currently \$453,626 available in Fire's Apparatus and Equipment Reserve fund.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chad Sweet