



Town of Windham

Fire - Rescue Department

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MEMORANDUM

To : Barry Tibbetts, Town Manager
From : Brent Libby, Fire-Rescue Chief
Date : September 27, 2023
Re : Apparatus Purchase FR-2024-001
Cc : Susan Rossignol, Finance Director
Bob Burns, Assistant Town Manager

In the Fiscal Year 2025 budget the Town Council approved the expenditure of Capital Project FR-2024-001 to replace our 1999 Ferrara pumper formerly known as Engine 5 up to \$850,000. Its replacement will move the current vehicle to a ready reserve status.

As an organization we have been working to ensure that our apparatus purchases meet our current and future needs while consolidating and streamlining operations for efficiency where we can. This truck is routinely housed at the East Windham Station which is one of our lower call volume areas of town. As such we felt we could redefine the mission of this vehicle by reducing the cab size and expanding the amount of water it carries. With only 33% of the town being covered by public water / hydrants and where our normal pumpers carry 1000 gallons this new truck will carry 2000 gallons. This allows the truck to be classified as a pumper – tanker increasing our “water on wheels” capacity in town and reducing the overall cost of the vehicle. Our current and only pumper-tanker is a 2008 and carries 2,800 gallons of water. With this adjustment we will have two vehicles capable of shuttling water in our rural areas while still meeting the needs in its primary area as a pumper.

We established a committee to create baseline specifications for the vehicle. On July 11, 2024, a request for bids was sent out directly to 10 vendors and posted on the town's website with 15 business days to respond. Our specifications were general, but we were specifically interested in what the vendors had available as “demo” or in production vehicles. Acknowledging that most apparatus and vehicle purchases have taken upwards of two years for delivery we wanted to make a concerted effort to reduce that time and explore available options that would still meet our needs. Specific items we specified and considered were delivery timeline, cost, water tank size, pump capacity and model, as well as compartment space.

At the time of the public bid opening on August 1, 2024, we had received bids back from seven vendors providing information on ten available trucks. Each bid was received and categorized by price, total gallons, pump and pump size, compartment availability, timeline for delivery, and other various components. Among the items that met our needs; this truck provides for full cabinet space on the driver's side, 2,000 gallons of water, same pump as our fleet, and delivery in late September or early October as it has just completed build as a demo/stock unit.

The committee reviewed the specifications provided in the bids, the comparisons of each truck and as a result we are requesting authorization to purchase the Spencer Fire Apparatus Freightliner Pumper-Tanker with a base price of \$545,250.00. As a demo truck there are a few modifications to complete including installation of a foam system, pump fitting, rear intake size increase and an additional valve controller. These items would be added to the truck for function, ease of use, and alignment with our current fleet. Additional items such as hose and firefighting equipment specific for this truck would be included in a final purchase price of \$586,719.00 from Autotronics of Madawaska, Maine.

We very much appreciate the continued support of the Fire-Rescue Department and its mission to serve our community.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.