



Council Agenda Item

Date: January 2, 2020

To: Monica Irelan

From: Thomas Hummel

Topic: Replacement of Aerial Apparatus

History: The Fire Dept. currently owns and operates a 1990 Sutphen Aerial Tower, unit #2319. In late November of this year, during its' annual safety inspection and certification, it was found to have serious frame delamination (a severe corrosion issue) and was removed from service. Through subsequent inspection and review of these (and other) repair issues, it was determined that the cost of the necessary repairs to make the apparatus serviceable and certifiable would far exceed the residual value of the apparatus. This type of apparatus is required for the Fire Dept. to be able to provide adequate fire protection and rescue capability to the citizens and businesses in the City of Painesville.

Purchasing: Currently, we have been having discussions with The Sutphen Corporation regarding the purchase of a replacement aerial, which would be the most modern, safe and updated apparatus available. It was determined through our research that the purchase of another used apparatus (as was done when we acquired the 1990 Sutphen aerial) would not be prudent, as costs for repairs and maintenance would again quickly exceed any residual value. The Sutphen Corporation is currently building a "demo" model of their SPH 100 aerial platform apparatus, which would exceed the capabilities of our current apparatus, and allow us to have a safe and reliable aerial apparatus, to provide the best service possible to our citizens and businesses. This "demo" apparatus is built to Ohio State Bid Specifications, which means we can purchase the apparatus without having to go out for bid. Being that it is a "demo" apparatus there are also some added features and equipment that will be included in the state bid price of the vehicle. We have signed a letter of intent to purchase this apparatus, dated December 31, 2019, which gives us a fourteen (14) day "hold" on this vehicle, during which time no other entity can purchase it. This is a non-binding letter, and if allowed to expire does not hold the city to any stipulation. Purchasing this "demo" apparatus will allow us to place a new aerial apparatus in service by June of 2020. If we were to contract to build an aerial "from scratch" (from any manufacturer) the normal build times are approximately 13 to 15 months. This would mean our city would be without an aerial apparatus until approximately May of 2021.



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Financing: The Finance Department has a plan to pay \$500,000.00 towards this apparatus, and finance the rest through the issuance of a bond. \$250,000.00 will be taken from the Bond Retirement fund (301) and \$250,000.00 will be taken from the 5-year Fire Levy fund (236). The debt payment will then be split between fund 301 and fund 236 on an annual basis (current 236 Fire Levy runs thru 2023). The City Manager, Finance Director and Fire Chief met with the Finance Committee on December 30th to review this plan. The Finance Director will require a later approval for a budget adjustment to spend the levy funds when that time comes.

Recommendation: That Council approve the financing measure set forth and allow the City Manager to enter into an agreement with The Sutphen Corporation to purchase a Sutphen Stock 469 SPH 100 Aerial Platform, and declaring it an emergency. The reason for this recommendation is that due to the “demo” nature of this particular apparatus, we can get it in service to serve and protect our citizens and businesses much sooner than if we waited to do a normal build of this apparatus.