

Cromwell Fire District

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FIRE DISTRICT OFFICE
WATER DIVISION

FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Apparatus Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

5:30 PM

Coles Road Firehouse
105 Coles Road
Cromwell, CT

Present: Commissioners Charles Epstein (Vice Chairman), Robert McIntyre and Robert Donohue. Also attending were Executive Director Julius Neto, District Mechanic Chris Logan, Fire Chief Jason Balletto and Firefighter Lt. Barry Wolmetz. Commissioner Jason Hinners was absent.

- I. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 5:40 PM by Vice Chairman Epstein.
- II. Approval of Agenda. A motion was made by Chris Logan, seconded by the Executive Director and unanimously approved to accept the agenda as submitted.
- III. Public Comment. There were no public comments to report.
- IV. Review and Discussion of Specifications for New Rescue/Pumper. Chief Balletto gave everyone a packet of information. The first item in the packet was the invoice for Truck #1. The total of the invoice was \$554,000. The original price was \$540,000. The changes that were made after the order was placed totaled \$14,000 more than the original price. The Chief had done a spreadsheet that showed the changes that were done. The Chief was willing to email the sheets to the Committee since the copy was hard to read.

Last week \$364,000 was paid to Firematic to pay for the chassis of the new Fire/Rescue. The down payment will take \$10,000 - \$11,000 off the final price of that apparatus. That final price was \$698,500. The down payment will bring that price down to \$687,000. The Chief saved \$120,000 off the initial bond for the changes that were going to be made. He had areas within that budget to make the changes.

The Chief briefly discussed the ambulance. He reported that it is ready to go. The chassis is in. They need to determine whether or not they want to pay for the chassis up front to get a discount on the total price. He explained that the ambulance is a typical box ambulance. It is similar to the ones the District has now. He wanted to set up a meeting next week with PL Customs to report what is discussed at this meeting. The meeting would have to be scheduled before the 20th and during the day. The Chief was planning to invite Chris Logan, Lt. Wolmetz and Firefighter Dominy to the meeting. The ambulance is being built in North Haven at PL Customs.

When the new engine is completed, a final inspection needs to be done during the day. Firematic is not open at night. The Chief asked if he could attend the final inspection with Chris Logan, Lt. Wolmetz, Firefighter Dominy and whoever else wanted to attend.

The Chief began reviewing the option list in the packet for the Rescue/Pumper. A copy is attached to the minutes on file in the Fire District Office. There was a meeting last week with the Chief, Eric Roberts, Dave Barillaro, Alan Dominy, Lt. Brett Hallden, Lt. Barry Wolmetz and Ass't Chief Jason Brade. They reviewed all the specifications. They verified everything and made sure it met the same requirements as the new piece coming in.

The Chief began on page 1 of 104 of the packet.

- He explained that they went from a 1,000 gallon tank to a 750 gallon tank.
- The next few pages explained the warrantee and insurance of the apparatus. The language is universal for all apparatus. There are no changes and no additional cost. It also breaks down the vehicle inspection declared by NFPA 1901.
- A bid bond was not done. It was not requested. It is a shelf piece that is going to build. A meeting will be scheduled in a couple of days to discuss all of the District's concerns before they go to build.
- Gross vehicle weight is 49,800 lbs. 68 mph maximum speed. He reviewed some of the information about framing, tires, suspension, tire pressure management, etc.
- The engine is Cummins with 500 hp at 1900 rpm. It has a torque of 1695 lb-ft with 1,000 rpm's.
- They did make some changes in the cab. It originally had 2 seats in the front. One for the officer and one for the driver with 4 seats in the back. One of the issues is SCBA's. According to code there should be a radio and an SCBA in there. They never had 6 people on the pieces. The Chief is recommending to take away 2 seats, making it a 4 seat cab with a roll down EMS compartment in the back seat. The expensive equipment will be able to go inside the cabinet. The Chief would only have to purchase 4 Scott packs instead of 6. All the officers and firefighters are in agreement with this change.
- There was a discussion about changing the emergency lighting color in the rear. This will have to be done after market. Per 1901, there can only be 4 different kinds of lights; red, yellow, white or blue. The green lights are what everyone was interested in. The Chief is still looking at the after market price for those. The green lights are easier identified on the highway. The work will have to be done by Firematic. Pierce will not do that type of work.
- One of the changes inside the cab will be to add a speedometer. The officers would like an electric siren push button shut off on the officers' side. They are also requesting an air break on the officers' side.
- They are requesting to move the scene patrol lighting from location 10 (right side of the steering wheel) to location 11.
- Mirrors and handles are black. Everything else is chrome.
- The universal computer mount was discussed briefly. They are requesting a 12 volt DC, but with two 15 amp power point or one 20 amp power point near the mount. Chris Logan reported there are USB ports in the dashboard instead.
- The Chief discussed the forward facing center cabinet. It can be used for storage without anything falling out of it. It has one shelf that is adjustable. It will be light weight aluminum. It will be painted to match the interior.
- There was a question about whether or not Pierce can do all electronics for the apparatus including radio.

- There are a lot of computers on this apparatus. It is universal to every engine and apparatus.
- Regarding lighting, they are requesting to have telescope lighting.
- The Chief does not recommend using hard suction hose. It is also not required by the manufacturer.
- Regarding ladders, the Department is going with all aluminum instead of fiberglass.
- There will be a lot of storage in the rear of the apparatus that will be hidden.
- The Chief and Chris Logan will be meeting with Firematic to see what equipment is needed.
- No foam will be put into this piece. It is like Engine 1, it is externally mounted.
- There was a recommendation to put LED lights on the cab of the engine.
- On page 91 at the bottom of the page the NFPA required loose equipment gives a list of equipment that is required to be on the apparatus.
- The Chief reviewed the paint. The paint is lead free. The cab is two-toned. The upper section is white #10, and lower section red #90.
- All wheel surfaces inside and out will be painted #90 red.
- An extended warrantee would be \$39,000 - \$40,000. The Chief does not feel this is that cost effective. There is a 6 year warrantee on parts, and a one year warrantee on labor. Various components on the truck have their own warrantee. This is going to be the primary apparatus to be used every day for the next 6 to 10 years.

In an effort to build morale, the Chief let the membership decide the name of the apparatus. The overwhelming response for this was Squad #1. It is significant because this shows what this generation of first responders would want to name the apparatus.

The Chief will be distributing a check sheet to approve the decals to be ordered for Squad #1. He will be talking to Mr. Hanratty to draft the specs on this piece. He will distribute the specs to the committee when they have been completed. If there is an issue with the decal, the Chief will need to know immediately if it needs to be changed. The Chief does not want to see a plaque put on the side of the piece showing recognition by the Apparatus Committee. If a plaque is requested, it should be done for all the members of the Department. There were a lot of people involved in making this piece a part of the fleet. Regarding the telescope lighting, the Chief plans to do what was done for Engine 1, which was portable telescope lighting.

The Chief is working with Local 4662 to re-evaluate SOP's. There is a spotting SOP, which requires 2 spotters to backup any apparatus. If there is no spotter available, the pump driver would have to do a complete 360 of the apparatus to make sure there is complete clearance of the piece before backup.

A motion was made by Commissioner McIntyre, seconded by Julius Neto and unanimously approved to accept the new Rescue/Pumper, Squad #1, as presented and discussed.

A motion was made by the Executive Director, seconded by Chris Logan and unanimously approved to direct the Fire Chief to create Squad #1 through the graphics.

The Chief noted that he had some additional information on the ambulance. It is identical to the item just discussed. It went from a 450 to a 550 based on Chris Logan's

recommendation because the resale value of a 550 is much higher than a 450. It is the same color, same gold leaf, same compartments. It is solid red, and it is a diesel.

The Chief asked that he set up a meeting with himself, Chris Logan, Lt. Wolmetz and Alan Dominy to go over the entire spec sheet with PL Customs to move forward to get this process moving. It will be scheduled on the 14th or 15th of next week.

There was discussion about using the old 4A ambulance as a rehab vehicle and/or a fire investigation vehicle if the District is unable to sell it. The Committee should keep in mind that keeping an older piece from the fleet still requires insurance on maintenance and upkeep.

- V. Commissioners' Comments. There were no comments to report.
- VI. Adjournment. There being no further business, a motion was made by the Executive Director, seconded by Chris Logan and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles R. Epstein, Vice Chairman

Nancy Deegan
Recording Secretary