



HINESBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Nicholas Baker
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MEMORANDUM

Date: 1/3/2023

To: Hinesburg Select Board

CC: Todd Odit, Town Manager

Topic: Engine 2 Replacement

The Hinesburg Fire Department currently operates three engines, one tanker and one medical first response vehicle. We are seeking funding to replace our Engine 2 with a new Pumper/Tanker.

Current Engine 2 is a 2001 International chassis fire truck. Industry standard is for a fire truck to respond first due for 10 years, become a reserve truck for 10 years and then be replaced after 20 total years of service. Engine 2 was the front-line truck from 2001 until 2016 and continues to be heavily used for incident response, not in a reserve capacity. Over the last three years we have begun to see the effects of that use, as Engine 2 has experienced heavy maintenance needs, including significant mechanical issues leading to the truck being placed out of service multiple times. Over the past six months, Engine 2 has been out of service for a total of six weeks cumulatively.

We have established a committee of call and full-time fire department members who are actively working with vendors to design the replacement for Engine 2. The mission of the new Engine 2 will be primary response to fire related incidents and mutual aid responses. New Engine 2 will take on the role of a Pumper/Tanker, fulfilling the role of two trucks; similar to the concept of Engine 1 as a Rescue/Pumper. This combination of apparatus will allow us to effectively perform firefighting duties with fewer trucks on scene and allow us to reduce our fleet size, saving taxpayer dollars.

Our current Tanker 1, a 2006 International chassis is in fair condition but does not have a structural fire pump and only serves the purpose of hauling water. If new Engine 2 is approved for purchase, HFD would replace current Engine 2 upon delivery and continue to operate Tanker 1 until such a time that the truck is no longer serviceable. Tanker 1 would then be phased out and not replaced.

Current lead times on fire apparatus production are 24 – 36 months with cost increases occurring quarterly if not more often as we recently experienced with our order of the new Engine 3. While we currently are working with vendors to secure specs and bids, we have received preliminary cost estimates are seeking a bond vote of \$850,000.00 for the replacement of Engine 2. We will continue to work with vendors to obtain a minimum three quotes to be presented to the select board prior to final approval. The life expectancy of new Engine 2 would be 25 years of service.

Nicholas Baker, Fire Chief