



CITY OF HOUSTON
Fire Department

Promoting Excellence as the World's Largest Accredited Municipal Fire Agency

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January 9, 2017

Honorable City Council Members
 900 Bagby Street
 City Hall Annex, 1st Floor
 Houston, Texas 77002

Re: **MATTERS HELD – Number 27 on Agenda of January 10, 2017**
*MOTION by Council Member Cohen/Seconded by Council Member Davis to adopt recommendation from Chief Procurement Officer to award to **METRO FIRE APPARATUS SPECIALIST, INC** for Firefighting Trucks through the Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Purchasing with the Houston-Galveston Area Council for the Houston Fire Department - \$4,842,826.00 – Equipment Acquisition Consolidated Fund. **TAGGED BY COUNCIL MEMEBRS MARTIN, STARDIG and LE.** This was Item 12 on Agenda of January 4, 2017*

Honorable City Council Members,

The following information is provided to address Council's request for station designations of new apparatus and the decision criteria for replacement and assignment of new apparatus.

A. Projected Apparatus Assignments

The seven apparatus are scheduled for deployment to the following fire stations. Please note the apparatus' designation identifies the type of apparatus and station number.¹

New Apparatus	Description	Station Assigned	Designation	Age	Old Apparatus Status Change	Council District	Council Member
1	Engine	10	E-10	2008	Refurbish	F	Le
2	Engine	48	E-48	2005	Reserve	K	Green
3	Engine	60	E-60	2008	Refurbish	K	Green
4	Engine	77	E-77	2005	Reserve	A	Stardig
5	Ladder	28	L-48	2004	Reserve	J	Laster
6	Ladder	51	L-51	2009	Refurbish	J	Laster
7	Tower	18	T-18	2006	Reserve	I	Gallegos

* These projections are subject to change as explained below in Rights Reserved

¹ For example, a new apparatus that will replace an "Engine" (also known as a "Pumper") at station 10 will receive the designation "E-10". Therefore, those replacement apparatuses that simply state E-10 indicate that they are assigned to station 10 and would answer the question "What station is E-10 assigned to."

B. Collaboration Process

The process of ordering new apparatus is a collaborative process between the Fire Department ("HFD") and the Fleet Management Department ("FMD"). After resources are identified and allocated through the budget process, the fire department submits an "apparatus needs" list to FMD. The apparatus needs list is reviewed by the FMD Director's office who evaluates the mechanical history and other criteria of the apparatus slated for replacement to optimize the assignment of vehicles. The ultimate decision on apparatus assignment is made by the Fire Department. After the two departments discuss the proposed apparatus assignments a projected list of replacements is generated and a Request for Council Action is processed for the required authorization to expend funds.

C. Apparatus Replacement Model

In an effort to maintain reliable vehicles and equipment and avoid interruption in service from the agency to the community, HFD uses a replacement model that takes into consideration the age of the apparatus, intensity of use, fixed and variable cost (such as maintenance) and out-of-service time. Please see "Attachment A" for an explanation of the replacement model provided by Assistant Chief Donovan. Any projected list of apparatus replacements and assignments are subject to change due to changing events and conditions of HFD fleet operations as described below. It's important to emphasize that the final decision for replacement or assignment of HFD apparatus is reserved exclusively by the Fire Department in order to provide service to the community in a professional and timely manner.

D. HFD's Rights Reserved

Due to the dynamic nature of emergency services delivery and a 4 to 6 month turnaround for delivery of new apparatus, events and conditions of other apparatus may arise that would cause the projected assignments to change. Point in case, as recent as this past Sunday a ladder truck was hit by a driver that was allegedly asleep at the wheel.² Other incidents that involve vehicle assignment changes involve mechanical breakdowns and engine repairs. These briefs examples are offered to show how changing circumstances affect the original projected list that may cause different council districts to receive the new apparatus.

We hope this information has been helpful and welcome any other questions or concerns you may have.

Kindest regards,



Bryan Sky-Eagle
District Chief
City Hall Liaison
Houston Fire Department

² See <http://www.click2houston.com/news/all-mainlanes-shutdown-on-59-highway-at-gessner>

ATTACHMENT A

Per Assistant Chief Donovan:

HFD Apparatus Replacement/Rotation Program

The Houston Fire Department has been utilizing a deployment model that takes into consideration several factors when assigning new apparatus which include but are not limited to the following:

- Call Volume
- Age
- Mechanical Issues
- Community Development Block Grant Eligibility

The fleet is broken down into three distinct subsections that are entirely based on call volume, the top 25%, the middle 50% and the bottom 25%. The program tries to keep the busiest 25% of the fleet in new apparatus in order to take full advantage of any warranty that comes with the vehicle, thus reducing maintenance costs. Apparatus that fall within the top 25% typically have been keeping the apparatus for approximately 7-8 years. The apparatus would then be taken out of service and sent to FMD's Heavy Duty and Body Shop for a refurbishment, which includes a complete mechanical checkout of the vehicle, body damage repair/repaint, upholstery repair/replacement, after which the unit would be reassigned to a unit in the bottom 25% of call volume until it was moved to reserve status at the end of its frontline lifespan. A unit that receives refurbishment comes out of the shop with its components fully functioning and the aesthetics of the vehicle upgraded considerably. The middle 50% of the fleet would ideally receive a new apparatus within 10-12 years. Currently the reserve fleet is comprised of units that average 19 years of total service. Units remain in reserve status for varying lengths of time, based on age and condition, and are remain in reserve status until newer units become available.

Units that are purchased with Community Development Block Grants are required to be assigned to areas meeting the national objectives as set by HCD. Additionally, units that were purchased with CDBG funding are required to stay assigned to that area for a period not less than 5 years. Once a unit completes its mandated service requirement, it then becomes eligible to rotate out as outlined in the plan.

HFD also consults with FMD to review unit mechanical history in order to optimize the assignment of vehicles.