

Office of the Fire Chief

City of Richland Hills, Texas

Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor Bill Agan and members of the Richland Hills City Council
From: W. Bell, Fire Chief
Date: May 14, 2014
Subject: Fire Apparatus Replacement Proposal

City Council Action Requested:

No action requested at this time.

Background Information:

Attached is a proposal to replace the current fire department fleet with smaller more efficient apparatus that meet the needs of the city. The goal is to sell the existing apparatus and purchase new and used equipment that would meet the needs of the fire department with minimal or no capital expense to the city. The city's front line firefighting apparatus, the Quint, is designed to combine a fire engine and fire truck into one piece of equipment. A fire engine has a pump, water tank and hose and is intended to supply water to firefighters extinguishing a fire. The ladder truck will normally have no pump or water and will have an aerial ladder with a compliment of ground ladders and is intended to be used for rescue or as water towers in defensive fires.

The city's Quint is a large expensive piece of equipment to be driving around the city responding to emergency medical calls, public service calls and day to day activities like fire inspections and public education events. A small wheeled based engine would serve the needs of the city in a more efficient and economical manner. An engine has the water tank, water pump, sufficient hose in multiple sizes for water supply and hand lines for extinguishment as well as two ground ladders, a 35' extension ladder and a 14' roof ladder. If there was a need for an aerial ladder the city would depend on a neighboring city for assistance. The ladder and waterway on a ladder truck is

historically used during defensive fires, where the building is pretty much lost. In questioning department members who have been with the city for nearly thirty three years, they report, to their recollection, the aerial ladder on the city's fire apparatus have only been used four to five times.

The revenue from selling the city's current apparatus are estimates derived from reviewing similar pieces of equipment that are on the used fire apparatus market. A seven year old Quint is still relatively new. A new Quint with similar features would cost approximately \$650,000 to \$750,000. The commercial fire engine the city uses now as the reserve engine would be an attractive piece of equipment for a rural volunteer department that covers large geographic areas. The engine is 14 years old but with relatively low miles and low hours which makes it attractive to rural volunteer fire departments providing only fire suppression services.

When purchasing a new engine the recommendation is to look at demo or stock units from manufactures. It is not uncommon to see departments spending \$400,000 to \$550,000 on new engines that are custom built for fire departments. Manufacturers will build stock or demo units that can be purchased at lower prices as long as the city is willing to accept what is available. The equipment and hose currently on the city's fire apparatus would be transferred over to the new apparatus so there would be little or no need for additional equipment purchases.

Staff Contacts:

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Attachments: Proposed Replacement of Richland Hills Fire Apparatus and review of current Richland Hills' Fire Department fleet

Proposed Replacement of Richland Hills Fire Apparatus

- Purchase or lease new (demo or stock) custom fire engine, 1500 gpm
Estimated cost \$350,000
- Sell Quint – 2007 custom Quint, 75’ aerial, 1500gpm pump purchased in 2007 (delivery in 2008) at cost of \$535,000, 15yr bond expiring 2022, current balance is \$360,000 (annual payment towards bond approximately \$49,000 per year)
Estimated sale price \$300,000 - \$350,000
- Sell reserve engine – 2000 Freightliner Commercial Fire Engine, estimated \$85,000 – \$115,000
- Purchase 5-7 year old custom fire engine as reserve engine, 1500 gpm
Estimated cost \$150,000

Additional Recommendations for fire department fleet when Command Vehicle is replaced.

- Sell Command Vehicle, 2006 Ford F-250
Estimated sale price \$15,000 - 20,000
- Purchase walk around rescue squad (demo or stock) w/small 500 gpm pump and 300 gal water tank to become a combined Command Vehicle and rescue vehicle.

Current Fire Department Apparatus Inventory

- 2007 custom Quint – a Quint is a fire service apparatus that serves the dual purpose of an engine and a ladder truck. The name Quint refers to the five functions that a Quint provides: a pump, water tank, fire hose, aerial ladder, and ground ladders. The Quint is the primary apparatus that the fire department uses to respond to nearly every call with the exception of grass fires. Normal staffing is 1 to 3 personnel.



- 2000 Freightliner Commercial Fire Engine – a fire engine will have a 1,250 to 1,500 gpm pump, hose, a ground ladder and compartments for equipment. A commercial fire engine uses a traditional truck cab where a custom cab is more of a box style designed to give more room inside for firefighters and equipment. The Quint has a custom cab.



- 2003 Brush Truck – small pump and water tank on a four wheeled vehicle allowing firefighters to drive off road to extinguish grass and brush fires.



- 2006 Command Vehicle – Ford F-250 used by Shift Commander to respond to incidents. Carries equipment to operate as the incident command at emergency events. Usually has one department member responding in the vehicle if shift is at full staffing of five on duty.



- Utility Vehicle – Used as a vehicle for transporting equipment to and from scenes. Department personnel use vehicle to attend training sessions, seminars, inspections, and to tow the department's fire safety trailer.



- 2011 MICU Ambulance – Wheeled Coach ambulance mounted on a Dodge cab used as the front line ambulance



- 2006 MICU Ambulance – Frazier ambulance mounted on a International cab used as a reserve ambulance



- 2006 Ford Expedition used as Chief's vehicle

