Mary F Redden

From: Mary F Redden
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2009 12:57 PM
To: Carmen Johnson; Dane M. Slater; Daryl Klinko; Doug Tietz; Maureen M. McGinnis; Wade Fleming; William Molnar; 000schilling@ameritech.net; cristinabroomfield@yahoo.com; David Eisenbacher; Louise Schilling; Mary Kerwin; mfhowryl@umich.edu; rbeltram@wideopenwest.com; wade.fleming@proforma.com
Cc: John Szerlag; John M Lamerato; Mark F Miller; Lori G Bluhm
Subject: Responses to Council Questions on the 09.28.09 Agenda

Good afternoon.

Council Member Beltramini had a few questions on tonight's agenda items. Below are her questions and staff's answers. Please let us know if we need to clarify any of the information for you.

E-04 – Purchase of Fire Apparatus - First, I think it's more than reasonable that fire apparatus be replaced every 20 years or so. And, although many communities are worse off than we are, I don't think we can donate any out of service apparatus when we are considering such draconian cuts to popular services and used fire apparatus could bring a few thousand dollars to the city coffers.

Fire Chief Bill Nelson said we are not proposing to donate any used apparatus; it will be sold by bid or auction and the proceeds returned to the general fund.

I have three questions regarding this purchase: 1) Are these ladder trucks? If yes, is there any station where, in the future we might not need a truck with a long, extendable ladder—or are our office and high-rise buildings so scattered that all six stations need at least one such vehicle?

Chief Nelson indicates that these are not ladder trucks. The two engines would replace the first out engines at Stations 5 and 6. These are the engines that go out first on every incident the stations respond to whether it be a fire, vehicle crash with extrication, fuel spill, etc.

2) Why is our water tank costing so much more than those ordered by other communities?

Chief Nelson responded that our first out engines all carry 1000 gallons of water. Most other communities carry 500 gallons. We have found that carrying 1000 gallons provides a significant advantage due to the length of time the engine can operate before connecting to a hydrant. Typically the second engine lays the supply line from the first engine to the hydrant and may be several minutes behind the first engine depending on time of day, volunteer firefighter availability etc. The 1000 gallons is also a significant advantage when responding to freeway and highway incidents where there are either no hydrants or connecting to a hydrant would require closing of the road.

3) What makes our warning lights and bodies require a differential price?

The warning light/siren package we specify includes multiple siren speakers due to the road environment in Troy with typically higher vehicles speeds that other communities which requires more notice to motorists that emergency vehicles are approaching. The package also includes directional arrow devices on the rear to provide direction to motorists approaching emergency scenes. We have also specified LED lighting as it considerably reduces the electrical power consumption in the engine as well as reducing maintenance of the warning light system as there are no moving parts and no light bulb filaments to break due to vibration.

The body specification includes: roll up compartment doors (provide easy access to equipment without having to open close conventional compartment doors or go around them if they are standing open); pull out tool boards that hold various adapters, appliances, etc. (we have standardized on these when purchasing apparatus for the past 10 years or so); Pull out shelves in compartments to hold heavy pieces of equipment (like hurst tools, motorized fans, etc) because requiring firefighters to bend over inside the compartments and lift heavy items has caused back injuries to firefighters. Our specifications calls for an enclosed ladder rack to keep ladders out of the weather and protected from the elements. This reduces maintenance and deterioration due to corrosion, moisture, ultraviolet exposure etc.

F-04a – Standard Purchasing Resolution 1: Outdoor Light Maintenance and Repair - In the bid chart summary for the field lights, there is an "other services if needed" category where hourly rates are delineated. How often do we use the hourly rate? Is that a necessary portion of the cost of changing any bulb, post, etc.? If so, it looks like the chosen vendor is significantly less than others on material costs, but far exceeds the average in hourly wages? Will they still be cheaper? Because these are athletic field lights, with games scheduled, how often can we expect to pay an overtime rate?

Parks and Recreation Director Carol Anderson indicates that the company would be used at the beginning of the season to replace bulbs as needed. No overtime would be approved or charged for this work.

Regards,
Mary Redden
Admin. Assistant to the City Manager