

Public Safety Committee Report

Re: Fire Department Engine 2: Sale and Replacement

Date: 8/15/19

Chair: Matt Whitcomb

Other Committee Members Present: Melinda Humphry, Lisa Ryan

Other Aldermen Present: Board President Davis, Chris Etori, Bill Gillam

Others Present: Mayor Allaire, Treasurer Markowski, Chief Larsen, Mike Roy, Rod Kenyon, Bill Lovett, Gordon Dreshchilo.

The meeting convened at 6:00pm to discuss the potential sale and replacement of fire engine 2. Chief Larsen provided background information regarding the purchase of fire engine 2 and outlined why this particular fire engine was not optimal for the Rutland City fire department. Chief Larsen noted that due to the size of engine 2, it is not very maneuverable. Chief Larsen highlighted examples of accidents that occurred during the operation of engine 2 throughout the city, explaining that its size was not well suited for Rutland City streets and intersections.

Chief Larsen explained that the vehicle is equipped with a top-mounted pump panel that is highly inefficient. It was explained that this configuration requires the engine driver, who is also the pump operator, to get up and down from the engine frequently to make the appropriate adjustments when fighting a fire. This arrangement puts fire fighters at a significant increased risk of injury, as well as takes a substantial amount of time to complete the necessary tasks when fighting a fire.

Chief Larsen explained that engine 2 is the only vehicle in the fleet with a truck mounted extrication system, limiting how close it can get to an incident; all other engines maintain portable extrication systems. Engine 2 also maintains a low-pressure hydraulic system which is no longer supported by the manufacturer and does not effectively cut many of the metals that modern vehicles consist of.

Due to the limitations of Engine 2 Chief Larsen, and the fire department apparatus committee, wish to work with Ferrara Fire Apparatus and Adirondack EVG to broker a deal in which engine 2 is sold and a new engine, consistent with the needs of Rutland City Fire Department, is purchased. Chief Larsen explained that he believes this can be done at a net zero cost.

Multiple questions were raised regarding the sale of engine 2, and purchase of a new fire engine, being done at net zero cost. In particular, concern was raised regarding the possibility that a deficit could be incurred if we sold engine 2 and then found the purchase of a new engine would exceed the amount of the sale. Chief Larsen provided clarification that sale of engine 2, and purchase of a new fire truck, were linked, meaning engine 2 was to be sold only if it were able to generate the amount required to cover the cost of purchasing the new vehicle. It was also clarified that the final authorization of the sale of engine 2 and the purchase of a new fire engine would come before the board.

Alderswoman Humphry moved to authorize Chief Larsen to seek proposals for engine 2 with the intention of replacing engine 2 at zero net cost and with the apparatus committee returning with the final proposal for approval by the Board of Aldermen. The motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Whitcomb, Chair.