



Cottage Grove Fire Department

4030 CTH N

Cottage Grove, WI 53527

Phone: 608.839.4343

Emergency: Dial 9-1-1



Memorandum

RE: New Brush Truck

This memo is in regards to the possible purchase of a new Brush truck for the fire department. The reason for replacement of the current brush truck is due to its age. The current truck is a 1997 Ford F-350 pickup truck. The fire department has taken excellent care of the truck but it is still a 22 year old vehicle. The current setup of the vehicle is a homemade truck that would not meet industry best practice. Best Practice as cited in NFPA 1901 Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus indicates (with NFPA 1906 Standard for Wildland Fire Apparatus citing similar language):

To maximize fire fighter capabilities and minimize risk of injuries, it is important that fire apparatus be equipped with the latest safety features and operating capabilities. In the last 10 to 15 years, much progress has been made in upgrading functional capabilities and improving the safety features of fire apparatus. Apparatus more than 15 years old might include only a few of the safety upgrades required by the recent editions of the NFPA fire department apparatus standards or the equivalent Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC) standards. Because the changes, upgrades, and fine tuning to NFPA 1901 have been truly significant, especially in the area of safety, fire departments should seriously consider the value (or risk) to fire fighters of keeping fire apparatus more than 15 years old in first-line service.

It is recommended that apparatus more than 15 years old that have been properly maintained and that are still in serviceable condition be placed in reserve status; be upgraded in accordance with NFPA 1912; and incorporate as many features as possible of the current fire apparatus standard (see Section D.3). This will ensure that, while the apparatus might not totally comply with the current editions of the automotive fire apparatus standards, many of the improvements and upgrades required by the current editions of the standards are available to the fire fighters who use the apparatus.

Apparatus that were not manufactured to the applicable NFPA fire apparatus standards or that are over 25 years old should be replaced.

In the year 2017 the Brush truck responded to the Village 15 times. In 2018 it responded to the Village 13 times. In 2019 the truck has responded into the Village 10 times with two remaining months left in the calendar year. I feel it is also necessary to report how many times it responded to the Town of Pleasant Springs due to the nature of the contract that the Village and Town of Cottage Grove share for services. In 2017 the truck responded 5 times, in 2018 it responded 34 times, and in 2019 it has responded 25 times. The contract for services to the Town of Pleasant Springs would not be possible if it were not for the Brush truck and the 2 tender apparatus.

The difference between the brush truck and an engine is the size and what it is used for. A brush truck cannot replace an Engine. The engine is required for structure fire responses due to the large volume of water needed to combat the fire and the amount of pressure the pump has the ability to produce. An Engine has the capability to carry more equipment, personnel, hose, and water. An engine cannot replace the brush truck due to the size. The brush truck is regularly taken off road and due to the large size and weight of an engine it is simply not feasible to use it as a brush truck. We have many areas in the Village and in Pleasant Springs where access is sometimes limited and a smaller apparatus could be beneficial. The Village contains the Glacial Drumlin Trail, several parks, and the School Prairie. Engine 3 is slated for replacement in 2022.



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This brush truck would not eliminate the need for Engine 3's replacement as Engine 3 falls under the same Best Practice standard as noted above.

The Fire Department has priced out a truck to replace the current brush truck with a new brush truck/rapid response vehicle. This did cause the price of the vehicle to increase but the vehicle will get more use out of it. The new truck would be built to meet NFPA standards for wildland fire and rapid response vehicle. If the municipalities agreed to pursue this it would not only respond to brush fires and medical emergencies but also would now respond to vehicle accidents, carbon monoxide alarms, citizen assists, and outside fires. When we ran the numbers for 2019 if this truck was in place it would increase the number of times the truck went into the village from 10 to 44. There are several advantages to this. The main advantage is that this truck will be first out in many of our responses which will save wear and tear on the larger more expensive to replace and repair vehicles such as the engines and squad. The next advantage is due to its smaller size it is easier to maneuver in narrow streets and crowded areas making responses to incidents less invasive and disruptive to traffic. The last major advantage is the safety and code compliances in addition to meeting best practices. This truck will be built by a licensed manufacturer to meet all NFPA requirements so it will reduce the risk of operating this truck and ensure the safety and health of our firefighters.

If it is determined that the municipalities do not want to incur the extra cost of the rapid response vehicle items can be stripped off of the current price to make it a brush truck only. If this occurs then the truck will only be used for medical emergencies and brush fires in the Village and call numbers will remain similar to what they are currently.