

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: RENTAL OF AERIAL FIRE APPARATUS

BACKGROUND:

The Fire Department's ladder truck (Truck 3) is being delivered to the Pierce repair center in Wisconsin on October 15. The service work is to repair the pinnable water way and the corrosion on the frame. It is estimated that the repairs will take approximately three months to complete. During that time, the City of Ames will be without the use of its only ladder truck.

Historically we have called upon our mutual aid agreements with the Boone and Nevada Fire Departments for the use of their ladder trucks when our ladder truck was out of service for a few hours or a day. With Truck 3 being gone for three months, staff felt we should explore the option of leasing a replacement ladder truck for that period. In 1995, the department leased a ladder truck for 4½ months while the previous ladder truck was being refurbished.

One of the main concerns of not having a ladder truck readily available is for a rescue from a mid-rise building. Rescues most often occur soon after arrival and normally must be done within a matter of a few minutes to be effective. In order to perform a rescue, the department would need to act quickly and efficiently in order to have a positive outcome. If we had to wait for a ladder truck from the mutual aid department, the time delay may lessen the chances for a viable rescue.

Staff is exploring a number of different alternatives for temporary rental of a ladder truck, but a vendor has not yet been identified. It is estimated that the costs for a rental truck will be as follows:

Rental cost for 3 months (\$300 per day)	\$27,000
Insurance for vehicle (3 months)	\$ 450
Pick up and delivery	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
Total	\$32,450

Although a vendor has not yet been identified, Council approval is being requested for funding approval of this purchase. Staff will then administratively approve a lease agreement to get the selected apparatus here as soon as possible.

Obviously there was no way to anticipate this cost when the 2009-10 budget was prepared. However, it is possible to utilize savings in the Fire and Police budgets that were intended to fund a full-time Information Technology support staff person to assist with mobile data

terminals and the emergency dispatch system. It is now anticipated that this budgeted position will not be filled until at least January, 2010. Having this position vacant for half of the fiscal year will provide adequate general fund savings to cover this truck lease.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize the lease of a ladder truck for three months from the funding source identified above at a cost not to exceed \$32,450.
2. Do not authorize the lease of a ladder truck, and rely upon mutual aid from the Boone and Nevada Fire Departments.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

In determining whether or not to rent a ladder truck, both cost and risk to the community must be weighed. Given the extended period involved, the degree of potential risk outweighs our financial challenges. When our citizens are in a dire emergency, the City needs to do its best to be there for them.

Truck 3 is a critical piece of fire protection equipment for the City. It has the only elevated water stream and extended ladder available to protect our citizens. While Truck 3 is being repaired, we will not have an essential piece of equipment in our City to perform rescues from elevated areas.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby authorizing the lease of a ladder truck for three months at a cost not to exceed \$32,450.