REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Date Requested: July 8th, 2024

Requested By: Fire Chief Chris Pettis

Department: Fire Suppression Division

(•) Report ( ) Resolution ( ) Ordinance

Exhibits: Proposal Full Spec, Maintenance Package, Loose Equipment Quote, HGAC Detailed Pricing, Aerial Proposal Letter, Letter of Intent to Purchase.

Appropriation	
Source of Funds:	Vehicle Replacement
Account Number:	
Amount Budgeted:	
Amount Requested:	
Budgeted Item:	(•) Yes ( ) No

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

All La Porte Fire Department apparatus are currently on a 20-year replacement schedule. The Fire Department routinely replaces retiring apparatus by utilizing funds from the La Porte Fire Control, Prevention, and Emergency Medical Services District that goes into an equipment replacement fund to ensure that the fleet remains up-to-date and fully operational.

The 2006 Sutphen Aerial Ladder truck, stationed at Fire Station No. 2, is near the end of the expected service life as of March 2026.

Delivery for this type of apparatus is currently running on an estimated 48-to-49-month delivery schedule from the manufacturer. Due to the extraordinary lead time required to manufacture this apparatus, the time to get equipment on order is now.

In January 2024, the Fire Department established an Apparatus Committee made up of department personnel to make recommendations for the replacement of the 2006 Sutphen Aerial Ladder. The Committee had an overall goal to ensure the effective selection, maintenance, and utilization of the next aerial apparatus. Key factors were best value, fire department needs, aerial device type, reach and height requirements, maneuverability, load capacity, apparatus size and weight, operational versatility, and technology integration.

After carefully considering and discussing the items mentioned above, the committee decided to move forward with a single axel apparatus with no less than a 100’ ladder equipped with a water tank and pump. The current in-service aerial is a single axle 70’ platform mini tower, so the committee decided to stick with an aerial that is a single axle which allows for a better turning radius in the apartment complexes, parking lots, and neighborhoods where turning might be difficult in the response territory. After looking at multiple manufacturers, Pierce was the only

manufacturer that had an aerial apparatus that met the committee's recommendations. The committee reached out to Siddons-Martin Emergency Group (SMEG), the authorized Peirce dealer for the State of Texas, and began the process of spec'ing out a 107' Peirce – Custom Velocity Aerial known as the Ascendent. The Ascendant 107' Heavy-Duty Aerial Ladder stands out as the only single rear axle aerial on the market, which would give the department an impressive 107 feet of vertical and 100 feet of horizontal reach without sacrificing water capacity, performance, or safety. Additionally, Siddons-Martin Emergency Group has also twenty service center locations across the State of Texas with three locations in the Houston Area (Houston, Friendswood, and Katy) that has 24/7 service capabilities. This aerial would be the first Pierce in the La Porte Fire Department fleet. Currently, the department's fleet consists entirely of Sutphen apparatuses. The maintenance support, along with warranty work, for Sutphen apparatus is managed by Texas Fire Apparatus, the only authorized dealer and maintenance provider in Texas, located in Palestine.

This equipment is made available for purchase under the H-GAC Contract FS12-23 Master Services Agreement, and our End User Agreement tailored specifically for this purchase.

Along with designing the new aerial apparatus, the committee also selected a 20-year maintenance agreement that complies with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1911 – Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Emergency Vehicles. Since the first manufactured fire truck in 1906, fire trucks have evolved into a more complex piece of equipment and is the single most costly purchase the fire department incurs. Because of that, apparatus maintenance plays an important role in the day-to-day operations. Proper care and maintenance help ensure that the apparatus, and equipment on it, is safe to operate and it always remains in a readiness state. Most importantly it extends the life of the apparatus which allows the fire department to effectively carry out the goals and mission to the community. The following maintenance plan was chosen by the committee, and it includes the following:

- **Two (2) services per year: 500 hours / 6-month Chassis Preventative Maintenance with 104-point visual inspection with written report and estimates for needed repairs**
    - NFPA 1911, Chapter 4 General Requirements, 4.5 Inspections and Maintenance
        - 4.5.5.1 A complete inspection and diagnostic check of the emergency vehicles in accordance with Chapter 8 shall be conducted at least as frequently as recommended by the emergency vehicle manufacturer or twice a year, whichever comes first.
    - SMEG will send written report to equipment services staff for review. After the review, a decision can be made on who will do what repairs. Equipment services would still be utilized but for repairs that do not require an ASE/EVT certification.
- **SMEG Aerial Preventative Maintenance**
    - NFPA 1911, Chapter 11 Inspection and Maintenance of Aerial Devices
        - 11.1 General. If the fire apparatus is equipped with an aerial ladder, elevating platforms, or water tower, the aerial device and its associated

systems shall be inspected and maintained in accordance with this chapter.
        - 11.3 Maintenance. The aerial device and its associated systems shall be maintained in accordance with the aerial device manufacturer's recommendations.
- **TAK-4 Suspension Maintenance**
    - NFPA 1911, Chapter 8 Inspection and Maintenance of the Chassis, Driving and Crew Compartment, and Body, 8.2 Frame and Suspension
        - All suspension components shall be inspected for defects, missing or loose parts, and functional operation and shall be lubricated:
            - Springs and spring hangers
            - Air springs (bags), mounting brackets, and attaching hardware
            - Equalizer beams and torque arms
            - Shock absorbers.
    - TAK-4 suspensions are custom built for Pierce chassis. SMEG technicians are specially trained to perform routine maintenance and inspections on these types of suspensions.
- **Wheels off Brake Inspection**
    - NFPA 1911, Chapter 8 Inspection and Maintenance of the Chassis, Driving and Crew Compartment, and Body, 8.12 Braking System
        - 8.12.1 The braking system shall be inspected and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's severe service recommendation.
- **Annual Pump Test w/ written report.**
    - NFPA 1911, Chapter 4 General Requirements, 4.3 Qualifications of Personnel
        - 4.3.1.2- Pump tests and annual aerial tests shall be performed by personnel who are qualified in accordance with NFPA 1071: Standard for Emergency Vehicle Technician Professional Qualifications or equivalent or by an organization that is accredited for inspection and testing systems on fire apparatus in accordance with ISO/IEG 17020*, Conformity assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspections.*

The Fire Department sent the maintenance plan over to the Public Works Director, and Equipment Services Supervisor, for review and was given the recommendation by both to proceed with the maintenance agreement.

Once the apparatus was selected, along with the maintenance plan, the committee worked on creating a list of loose equipment items that would be purchased with the apparatus that meets and exceeds NFPA 1901 – Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus equipment requirements for aerial apparatus, which enhances the department's response to emergencies effectively and efficiently. The Insurance Service Office (ISO) also provides a list of equipment for aerial devices that will assist with maintaining a lower rating and keeping home insurance rates low for those who live in our community. The selected equipment that is required by NFPA 1901, and ISO, includes hand tools, battery operated hand tools, ventilation equipment, coupling & adapters, battery powered extrication tools, portable lighting, master stream appliances, fire

hose, nozzles, ground ladders, aerial ladder safety belts, and mounting brackets for loose equipment that needs to be mounted. Due to the build lead time of 4 years (48mths), there was 20% added to the estimate since equipment prices may change.

By purchasing the equipment with the apparatus, it would allow the apparatus to go into service much quicker once it gets delivered. In the past, fire department personnel had to install all the equipment on the apparatus when it was delivered, which took between 30 – 60 days to complete. On top of those days, the department would have to schedule training on the apparatus before responding to any call for service. Once the apparatus is delivered, SMEG will provide training on the apparatus to department personnel. There will be multiple days scheduled to make sure that department personnel have an opportunity to learn the new piece of equipment. After completion of the training, the apparatus can be placed in service with additional training on regular scheduled drill nights so personnel can become more efficient.

Pierce – Custom Velocity Aerial – 107'	
Vehicle Price	$1,985,746.00
20-yr Maintenance Agreement	$301,769.00
Loose Equipment Budget	$142,646.51
HGAC FS12-23(FIRE)	$2,000.00
TOTAL	**$2,432,161.51**

The City of La Porte Purchasing Department, along with City Attorney, vetted and approved the La Porte FD Aerial SMEG Proposal document. The Director of Public Works has advised the replacement purchase of this vehicle will be fully funded in the equipment replacement fund prior to deliver of the vehicle.

The La Porte FD Aerial SMEG Proposal document includes a section called the Persistent Inflationary Environment Notification. This notification explains that the proposal price may be adjusted if there is another historical event that causes inflation. Inflation can be triggered by a variety of factors including drastic changes in supply and demand, changes in government policies, sudden fluctuations in oil prices, or even larger economic crises. Since World War II, there have been several periods in which inflation – as measured by CPI- was 5 percent or higher. However, the purchase of the apparatus is governed by the HGAC12-23 and its Master Agreement's Terms and Conditions. Specifically, any changes to the price, whether increases or decreases, will be managed under Article 23: Contract Adjustments of the agreement. This ensures that any modifications to the pricing are managed clearly and consistently, providing transparency and stability in the contractual arrangements.

The La Porte Fire Department is seeking Council approval to authorize the City Manager to issue a Letter of Intent, which was developed by the City of La Porte Purchasing Department, on behalf of the City to Siddons-Martin Emergency Group under H-GAC FS12-23 for the purchase of a 107' Peirce Custom Velocity Aerial Ladder in the amount of $1,985,746.00, the

installed loose equipment to customize the unit at $142,646.51, the 20-year maintenance agreement to maintain compliance with NFPA standard 1901 in the amount of $301,769.00, and the H-GAC fee of $2,000 for a total purchase amount of $2,432,161.51.

STRATEGIC PLAN STRATEGY AND GOAL

Organizational Excellence: *The City of La Porte will operate in a transparent, efficient, accountable, and responsive manner by preparing the organization and the staff for the future, focusing on core services, attracting, and retaining the best employees and wise stewardship of financial resources.*

ACTION REQUIRED BY CITY COUNCIL

Presentation, discussion, and possible action to authorize the City Manager to issue a Letter of Intent on behalf of the City to Siddons-Martin Emergency Group under H-GAC FS12-23 for the purchase of a 107' Peirce Custom Velocity Aerial apparatus in the amount of $1,985,746.00, the installed loose equipment to customize the unit at $142,646.51, the 20-year maintenance agreement in the amount of $301,769.00, and the H-GAC fee of $2,000 for a total purchase amount of $2,432,161.51.

Approved for the City Council meeting agenda.

Corby D. Alexander, City Manager **Date**