



Leland Township Fire & Rescue

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To: Clerk Brookfield
Supervisor Och

From: Chief Besson *DCB*

Ref: Action Item Request – Approval to Purchase a new commercial chassis Spencer Tanker Truck – not to exceed \$660,000

Date: October 7, 2024

Please consider this as a request to have an item placed on upcoming October 14th board of trustees' agenda.

The request is for the fire department to be given approval to purchase a new pumper/tanker, a vehicle both equipped with significant water hauling **and** firefighting capabilities from Spencer Fire Trucks, a well-respected Michigan Company, to replace Tankers 521 & 522. A few notes regarding the purchasing process include:

- An internal committee, lead by Deputy Chief Geoff Niessink and Sergeant Brandon Morse, spent a significant amount of time and effort of reviewing our past, current, and future operational needs. The committee was comprised of part-time/paid-on-call firefighters and full-time firefighters, with a variety of firefighting/apparatus driving experiences. The committee was made up of staff members whose experiences and recommendations I respect.
- The project was discussed at the budget hearings and approved, in concept, by the board of trustees at the March Budget Meeting. The budgeted amount was \$500,000 but the timeline, new/used vehicle availability, and the chassis/equipment costs were approximate. Through the process a decision had to be made to build a custom vehicle that would meet our needs for the next 20 years or be limited by the “cookie cutter” designs some vendors offered. The committee learned that some manufacturers were refusing to make custom designs/specifications for Leland Township Fire & Rescue to facilitate building more vehicles with little to no changes. That did not meet our needs.
- Our current tankers met the department needs (size, operational plans, response matrix, etc.), in 2004, when we were primarily a paid-on-call fire department with quite a few members around to come back to the station and bring trucks to the structure fire. We do not have the local paid-on-call staffing availability, and the strategies and

tactics of fighting fire has dramatically changed in the past 20 years. The current tankers (Tanker 521 and tanker 522) have little to no effective firefighting capabilities.

- The committee visited several fire departments (Green Lake Township, Inland Township, Grand Traverse Metro, and Long Lake Township) and researched the availability of used apparatus, nationally, to see if there was something that met our needs as well.
- They solicited bids from several vendors and received formal specs and pricing from four (Front-Line/Rosenbauer, Alexis, Sutphen, and, of course, Spencer). The builder of our current tankers, CSI of Grayling (MI), did not return our invitation to be involved in the process.
- A committee report and supplemental information is included in this packet.
- We can discuss which “financing” option works best for the department and township. That information is also included.

I am requesting an item be included on the October 14th agenda to discuss and consider the “Purchase of new Tanker Truck, from Spencer Fire Trucks, funded from the *projected* FY 2026/2027 402 Fire Equipment and Training Fund, not to exceed \$665,000”.

Thanks!