

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: 7/5/05
Date Prepared: 6/27/05
Reviewed by _____

**Subject: Purchasing A New Fire Department Ambulance Chassis & Remounting
the Existing Patient Care Compartment**

Resolution #05-40: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Albany...

Report By: John Weitzel, Fire Captain

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. Authorize the City Administrator to execute an agreement with Leader Industries to purchase one (1) 2006 Ford E-350 ambulance cab and chassis for a price not to exceed \$27,500, which includes sales tax. The purpose of this vehicle is to replace the 1994 Ford E-350 ambulance.

2. Authorize the City Administrator to execute an agreement with Leader Industries to refurbish one 1994 Horton patient care compartment to be placed on a 2006 Ford E-350 cab and chassis for a price not to exceed \$29,000, which includes sales tax. The purpose of refurbishing the 1994 Horton Patient Care Compartment is to repair those items that are either broken or worn and to reduce costs associated with buying a new patient care compartment.

BACKGROUND

The Fire Department currently uses two ambulances to serve Albany. One ambulance is used on all medical emergencies while the other is placed in reserve. It is necessary to have a reserve ambulance in the event the primary ambulance experiences a mechanical problem or has preventative maintenance. The reserve ambulance is also used when there are no ambulances available to respond in Albany or when multiple ambulances are needed for a particular emergency.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Staff currently uses a 1994 Ford E-350 and a 1999 Ford E-450 ambulance to serve the medical needs of the community. The 1994 Ford E-350 is the primary ambulance while the 1999 Ford E-450 is placed in reserve. In the past we have typically budgeted and replaced our ambulances every six to seven years. The 1994 ambulance has gone well beyond its predicted length of operation. It is vital to have two dependable ambulances

available to the citizens at all times. The 1994 ambulance is currently working appropriately, though staff cannot predict how much longer this will continue. Without any current warranties the expense of repairing this ambulance could easily be higher than the salvage price of the vehicle.

Recent quotes show the price of a new ambulance to be a minimum of \$114,000. If we chose to refurbish our 1994 Horton patient care compartment with the purchase of a new cab and chassis, the price would be considerably less at \$56,500. Leader Industries is the only company that refurbishes patient care compartments in the area. Because of this we ask the City to waive the formal bidding process and allow Leader Industries to perform the required work. Leader Industries quoted us \$28,602 to refurbish our 1994 Horton patient care compartment and fasten it to a 2006 Ford E-350 cab and chassis. The total cost of the ambulance, including a new cab and chassis would be \$56,500.

Ford Motor Company is currently offering a \$4,600 rebate on all Ford E-350 vehicles. This high rebate is not typical of Ford Motor Company. Purchasing a refurbished ambulance with a new cab and chassis could potentially be a big savings to the City now, with the current rebate Ford Motor Company is offering. Out of the three bids given for a 2006 Ford E-350, Leader Industries is the lowest at \$26,798. S & C Ford and Albany Ford were asking \$27,183 and \$27,230 respectively. These bids reflect the same specifications and include sales tax. Funds have already been established for the purchase of this vehicle through the EMS Equipment Reserve Fund 834.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The 2006 Ford E-350 ambulance with a refurbished patient care compartment would be purchased through the Fire Equipment Reserve Fund 834. There is currently \$72,662 in this fund as of May 31, 2005. Beginning each fiscal year, approximately \$22,500 is transferred into the EMS Equipment Reserve Fund. The last vehicle purchase from this account was a 1999 Ford E-450 ambulance for \$94,450 in August of 1999. The next expenditure from this account is expected to be in 2012 for a new ambulance.