

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

Agenda Date: 12-15-08

Reviewed by: BP

Subject: Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighters Grant Award for purchase of an aerial apparatus fire vehicle.

Resolution # 08-77: A resolution of the Albany City Council of the City of Albany, California, authorizing the City of Albany Fire Department to accept a grant award from the Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighters Grant.

Report By: James Boito, Fire Engineer
Marc McGinn, Fire Chief

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution #08-77 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Albany, California, authorizing the City of Albany Fire Department to accept a grant award of \$500,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, for purchase of an aerial apparatus fire vehicle.

BACKGROUND

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program was established by the FEMA after the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks. The primary goal of the AFG is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments. Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders to obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.

The Albany Fire Department applied for a grant in April of 2008 to purchase new a Quint aerial fire apparatus and received award notification on November 21st, 2008. This grant will allow the City to purchase a 75-foot aerial apparatus fire vehicle.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The acquisition of a 75-foot aerial fire apparatus will make it possible for the Fire Department to reach the top of any four-story buildings in Albany. Currently, there are 24 buildings in the four-story or higher category either built or in the approval phase. Our city has over a 100 buildings that are three stories and their roofs are not accessible

by our current ground ladders. The aerial will enhance reliable response, enable crews to gain quicker access to higher floors of buildings, and improve our effectiveness at ensuring our citizen's safety.

It is important to note the City of Albany purchased a 75-foot aerial in 1968. This apparatus served the city well until 1994 when it was retired due to age and safety concerns. This apparatus was not replaced due to monetary reasons.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

The new aerial apparatus meets 2008-09 CA emission standards, and no alternative fuel/zero emission models are available.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The financial requirement for the City of Albany is 5% of the award amount, \$25,000, and will come from the Fire Department's apparatus reserve account. The cost of additional equipment purchases to complete the outfit of the Quint will come from the fire department's equipment fund 830, 834, and 836. The additional equipment can run between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

Annual maintenance for an aerial apparatus typically is \$1,500 more than an engine. This is due to the certification of the aerial and additional ground ladders it carries. Initial annual cost will be low as the apparatus is new. During the first five years of service we anticipate maintenance costs to range from \$4,500 to \$5,000 annually. Typically, apparatus maintenance costs double between years six and ten. Because this apparatus will be used selectively, low maintenance costs and longevity of the apparatus will be greatly extended.

The aerial apparatus will not respond as a "first out" unit like our engines. Because of this we anticipate this apparatus serving the city for the next 25 years.

Attachment

Resolution #08-77