

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

Agenda Date: 02/02/09

Reviewed by: BP

**Subject:** Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant Award .

**Resolution # 09-3:** A resolution of the Albany City Council of the City of Albany, California, authorizing the City of Albany Fire Department to Purchase a Pierce 75-foot Heavy Duty Quint Aerial Apparatus for \$583,000.

**Report By:** Jay Jorgensen, Fire Captain  
James Boito, Fire Engineer

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Approve Resolution #09-3 authorizing the purchase of a Pierce 75-foot Heavy Duty Quint Aerial Apparatus for \$583,000.

**BACKGROUND**

The City of Albany City Council approved Resolution 08-77 on December 12, 2008 accepting a grant in the amount of \$500,000 from the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program for the purchase of a 75-foot Quint fire apparatus. In order to meet the performance guidelines of this grant, it is needed to purchase and have “in service” a 75-foot Quint by 11/09/2009 or potentially face daily-incurred penalties or the possibility of losing the grant.

“In service” is a curious phrase that includes the parameter that can safely staff and operate the vehicle. This requirement has a significant impact on the deadline for performance of the grant guidelines. After taking delivery of the aerial, a training period of 4-6 weeks is necessary for operating safely and efficiently on emergency calls. The normal process of researching a vehicle, choosing a manufacturer, specification of the build up and associated options, construction, and final acceptance is a long process. We are currently over 18 months with this process on our new fire engine with the projected delivery date sometime in May of this year - almost a two-year project.

**DISCUSSION**

The one-year timeline and the guidelines set by FEMA limits our options to purchasing a unit currently being built (close to completion) or purchasing a completed unit. The other consideration is to find an apparatus built by a quality manufacturer for a price as

close to the grant award amount as possible. Since the City Council's approval, the fire department has been very active in evaluating multiple manufacturers of the Quint-type fire apparatus. While this sum of money is not a small amount by any definition, it was apparent finding a quality apparatus with features that provide a safe and efficient operation is not possible. The average cost with sales tax for a well-equipped Quint is about \$700,000 to \$750,000.

Our search for an acceptable Quint has been extensive, including research of five different manufacturers. During this extensive process we visited two apparatus factories that proved to be very informative and ultimately validated Pierce Manufacturing was unequivocally the best company. During our recent visit to the Pierce facility (Appleton, WI) for purposes of finalizing the build specifications for our new engine, we were shown a 75-foot Quint. This apparatus became available on January 20, 2009 for purchase price of \$583,000 and currently is for sale in the open market as a demo unit. The demo price reflects a discount of nearly \$80,000 from the original price. Moreover, we feel the unit was reduced to this amount due to our past 15-year relationship as owners of two, soon to be three, Pierce engines. The unit itself was built with 98 percent of the features we would have specified if we had the luxury of time and money to custom order the unit. As stated in a previous staff report, Pierce is the industry leader in quality and longevity of fire apparatus in the Fire Service. Because of apparatus reliability, Pierce has become the apparatus of choice in California and in the U.S.

Purchase of the Pierce Quint will allow us to have the unit in service by May of 2009, well before the grant specified. Additionally, Pierce is the only manufacturer who can provide a unit of this quality in this short of a timeline with the features and upgrades.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT**

The new aerial apparatus meets 2008-09 CA emission standards, and no alternative fuel/zero emission models are available. Of note: Pierce Manufacturing, and parent company Oshkosh, has earned multiple safety certifications and environmental awards.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

An amendment was made to the initial grant award by requesting the inclusion of the 8.75% state sales tax. FEMA acknowledged the request and awarded an additional \$42,750. The total federal amount is \$517,750. The remaining balance of \$65,250 to purchase the \$583,000 apparatus will be paid by City funds that include the fire apparatus equipment reserve, the emergency medical services equipment reserve, the sale of the 1994 Pierce Arrow apparatus, and possibly the General Fund. There will be operations, maintenance, and training costs with the implementation of the apparatus.