

**FIRE COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2008**

Call to Order

Councilor Starkweather, Chair of the Fire Committee called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Fire Station.

In Attendance

Councilor Feener, Councilor Starkweather, Councilor Bowers, City Manager Corrow, Deputy Fire Chief Smith and Chief Clarenbach.

Absent

Councilor Boyd

Update on Engine 4

January 10, 2008 was the scheduled delivery date for Engine 4. American LaFrance filed for Chapter 11 in October or November of 2007. The delivery date has now been changed to January, 2009. The City is protected in the signed contract by a performance bond so the City would not be out on funds. Chief Clarenbach advised that when you call the bond, the bond company would first request that the balance owned (\$71,885) be paid and secondly they would then put the contract out for bid without regard as to who builds the engine as they are only interested in awarding the bid to the lowest bidder.

Since January 10, 2008 in accordance with the contract a \$250 per day penalty is assessed at 496 late days the amount owned would be \$124,000. American LaFrance is offering to loan the City a truck to use until the Engine 4 is completed plus 5% interest on the prepayment of \$320,000. If the City were to take the bond, there would be no interest on the \$320,000. Councilor Bowers suggested that negotiations continue with American LaFrance to have the balance owned of \$71,885 go away or be reduced to at least \$50,000 and take the truck loan.

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the City move forward with a counter offer to American LaFrance concerning the \$71,885 and accept the offer for use of a truck until Engine 4 arrives. Motion seconded by Councilor Starkweather. All in favor, motion passes.

Capitol Improvements Plan Purchases

Attached is a list of equipment replacement showing cost, year and life expectancy. Deputy Smith advised that in the near future cardiac patients will need to be taken to a Cath-lab and the closest lab is in Concord which will on occasion have the ambulance tied up longer. He also

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advised that there has been a substantial increase in 2nd calls. The City is losing revenue that could be gained by adding a second ambulance and would also add additional years of service to the current ambulance.

The bucket Truck which is Utility 2 Vehicle on the list can be purchased for approximately \$50,000 used. The ambulance is approximately \$220,000, however, Deputy Smith advised he had located a demo ambulance that is built close to the City's current ambulance for \$168,000. He stated that if the City had a second ambulance \$10,000 to \$12,000 in revenue could be anticipated annually. Councilor Bowers inquired if a van ambulance would serve the purpose and was informed that there is not enough room in the back to work on a patient and at times there might be as many as three persons working on a patient.

Lease purchase of equipment was discussed and that on many lease agreements you can get 5 to 7 years. Councilor Feener suggested that possibly if American LaFrance were to waive the balance owned on Engine 4 (\$71,885) that those funds could be put towards an ambulance and the balance put on a purchase/lease agreement for 5 or 6 years.

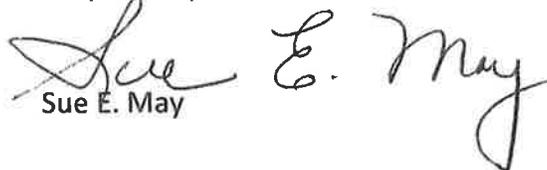
City Manager Corrow suggested that the Fire Department should buy whatever equipment they could, get a second ambulance for the increased revenue and increasing longevity to the current ambulance and look into lease/purchase on the more expensive equipment as needed.

Other Business

Manager Corrow inquired in Franklin Hospital makes a payment in lieu of taxes and was told no. Chief Clarenbach advised that all patients are taken to Franklin Hospital and no kind of compensation has ever been paid. Manager Corrow is going to look into this issue.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Feener, seconded by Councilor Starkweather. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sue E. May