

Gomez, Adeline

From: Hansen, Steve
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2007 12:11 PM
To: Gomez, Adeline
Cc: Aiello, Sam; Brown, David
Subject: Direct Referral for the Fire Department
Attachments: 082307-FosterCoach Ltr Ford Chassis.pdf

Direct referral to Finance and Personnel Committee;

Communications from the Fire Chief wishing to discuss the replacement of a rescue squad in 2008.

Narrative Text:

For the 2008 Capital Improvement Project we have had budgeted for three or four years the replacement of Rescue 8 which is a 2002 Ford/Medtec ambulance . This vehicle has exceeded its normal life cycle of five years and is now becoming increasingly difficult to maintain as a front line rescue squad.

Earlier this year we received some shocking news that Ford Motor Company would no longer offer the diesel motor in the Ford Ambulance chassis. That motor was a 6.0 liter diesel manufactured by International Harvester. We further learned there apparently was a dispute involving this 6.0 liter diesel motor and that there were six thousand motors sitting in a warehouse. Ford stated they would be unable to place their new 6.4 liter diesel motor in the ambulance chassis due to design and emissions requirements.

In the mean time with the assistance of the Purchasing Agent, Sam Aiello, the fire department scrambled to find suitable ambulance chassis for new Rescue 8. Many fire departments and builders of ambulances were consulted and it was determined the cost for the most suitable ambulance chassis was approximately \$40,000 more than what has been in the Capital Improvement Plan for the last few years. If we need to use an alternate chassis the cost would rise from about \$140,000 to approximately \$180,000.

Within the last few weeks we have learned that the dispute between Ford and International has been resolved and the six thousand 6.0 liter motors have been released for use in the Ford Van chassis. The ambulance builders from across the country will be scrambling to get a portion of these chassis over the next couple of months.

Our request is to allow the purchasing agent and the fire department to make a commitment to replace Rescue 8 now so that we may get our name in the queue for one of the Ford F-450 Type III ambulance chassis with a diesel motor when they become available with the understanding the unit will not be delivered until after January 1, 2008. We would further request your earnest consideration on approving this CIP as it has been presented over the last few years.

The question may arise, why a Ford Chassis. The Ford F-450 Type III ambulance chassis has a gross vehicle rating of approximately 13,500 pounds which is well suited to all the equipment that is carried

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on the vehicle. Other vehicle chassis such as GM have a gross vehicle rating of 12,300 pounds while the Freightliner Sprinter have a gross vehicle rating of 11,030 pounds.

Attached is an Adobe PDF document from Foster Coach who normally provides us with the Ford F-350/450 Type III ambulances.

Respectfully submitted

Steve Hansen, Fire Chief

FOSTER COACH SALES, INC.

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August 23, 2007

Racine Fire Dept.
Attn. Chief Steven Hansen
810 8th St.
Racine, Wisconsin 53403

Dear Chief Hansen:

This letter is written in response to our conversation of yesterday regarding the 2008 Ford E -450 Super-Duty chassis. As we understand it there are only approximately 6000 6.0 liter diesel engines available to produce all the cut-a-way chassis this model year. There are other industries and applications which have utilized this chassis in the past.

Last model year as we understand there were between 16,000 and 17,000 of these chassis produced or scheduled for production. The ambulance industry was too received about 5000 of these. The lady who is in charge of the pool chassis for Medtec did the math and stated to us that would only be about 200 chassis to them if the allocation's remains the same as last year.

There is nothing factual or in writing to confirm any of the above statements, but is our opinion of how this could play out during the next model year. We are recommending customers who intend to order this model chassis to do so early in hopes of getting what does become available.

Sincerely



Bill Rockafellow