



August 29, 2007

Honorable Mayor and
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council:

The Fire Chief is respectfully requesting the City waive the formal bidding process and instruct the Purchasing Agent to negotiate with Foster Coach on a replacement Ford/Medtec Ambulance for the Fire Department. This ambulance will be purchased with the 2008 CIP funds.

The Fire Department has standardized on the Ford/Medtec Ambulance Chassis and patient compartments many years ago starting in 1995. There are several advantages of this standardization. First and foremost is equipment location. Each ambulance has the same equipment in the same compartments, regardless of the model year. As Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics move between the vehicles on a fairly regular basis, the need to familiarize with equipment location is minimal. In addition, when multiple rescue squads are called to a single incident, there is no hesitation as to where emergency equipment is located. This happens on a fairly regular basis.

Next, by standardizing on the Ford/MedTec Ambulance Chassis and patient compartments, we minimize how many different types of spare parts we need to carry in stock for routine repairs. Light fixtures, door hinges, door latches, door closures, compartment hardware, vacuum pumps, oxygen regulators, interior lighting, and cot retention hardware, are some of the frequently maintained items.

Compartment size has been standardized also. We know what equipment will fit in various compartments and we have tailored our auxiliary equipment purchases to fit these standardized compartments.

We continue to believe it is in the best interest of the City to waive the formal bidding process on this unit.

Respectfully,

Steve Hansen