



Agenda Item: 17.A
Date of Meeting: April 14, 2025
Department: Fire

STAFF REPORT

To: City Council
From: Ethan Aukee
Subject: **Purchase of a Used Type 3 Fire Engine**
Prepared On: April 10, 2025

Background/History:

Currently the Bishop Fire Department does not have a true Type 3 Fire Engine. The Bishop Fire Department has Type 1's, Type 2's (2007 and 2011), and aerial fire apparatus. Our Type 2's have been used for wildland fires since the purchase of those vehicles and prior to adopting modern day firefighting tactics and strategies.

A true Type 3 Fire Engine's primary purpose is to fight wildland fires. The Bishop Fire Department has Type 1's, Type 2's and aerial fire apparatus, but not a true Type 3.

The purchase of a Type 3 will enhance our suppression capabilities by effectively pumping a progressive hose lay, relay pumping, and having adequate space on the apparatus for equipment.

The reason this is being proposed now, versus next year's budget, is because time is of the essence. Fire season is here and it's not even May. We all know in California, fire season is almost year-round and the apparatus that we have researched and found for sale will likely not be available in the upcoming weeks/months.

With our current fleet, as recent as the Silver Fire, we were presented with operational issues with the pump capacity of our first out brush engines (E3 and E4, both Type 2's) with not being able to properly pump our progressive hose lay and an ineffective relay pump operation.

With a Type 3, we would not have these issues or concerns.

Analysis/Discussion:

Recently, Fire Department staff has identified the availability of multiple, used, Type 3 Fire Engines. These engines appear to be in good condition and would serve as a useful and needed addition to the Fire Department's fleet of apparatus. The Fire Department's initial plan was to present the purchase of a Type 3 Fire Engine during the City's upcoming strategic planning meeting, for consideration of inclusion in the FY 2025-26 budget. Being that quality used options are available now, and it's reasonable to assume that quality used options might

not be available in FY 2025-26, the Fire Department has decided to present a request to purchase within the current FY 2024-25.

A new Type 3 Engine typically costs \$300,000-\$500,000. The Fire Department posits that purchasing a used engine, in good condition, allows for significant savings to the City, while still providing a higher quality service to the public.

Although this report requests maximum spending in the amount of \$150,000.00, the Fire Department anticipates this apparatus purchase to range \$120,000-\$150,000.

A Type 3 Engine is a useful piece of equipment for both provision of service to the local community, as well as for mutual aid deployments. This type of equipment, when made available for the use of other entities, has the potential to generate significant revenue for the Fire Department. Any revenue generated by use of this equipment, net of associated expenses, could be used to increase reserves and replace aging Fire Department equipment in future years.

Pursuant to the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the City of Bishop and the Rural Fire Protection District, the total cost would be split evenly between these two entities. Execution of a purchase would be contingent upon approval from both parties of the above referenced JPA, as well as adherence to all applicable code/policy relating to purchasing.

Economic Impacts:

Improved wildfire response:

- Reduction of potential property damage and disaster costs, especially in wildland-urban interface zones.
- Potential to lead to lower insurance premiums for residents and businesses due to improved ISO ratings.

Interagency Support & Revenue:

- Eligible for mutual aid deployments (Cal OES, USFS, etc.)

Economic Resilience:

- Helps maintain business continuity and tourism stability by quickly addressing fire risks in high-value areas.

Budget Impacts:

The total not to exceed cost is \$150,000, therefore, the impact to the City's FY 2024-25 budget is:

Increase of spending approval within capital expense account 001-021-56028 (Capital Improvement) in the amount of \$75,000.00.

Legal Review:

City Attorney Pucci has reviewed this item and finds that the recommended action complies with the law.

Recommended Action:

City Council to authorize the City Administrator to purchase a used Type 3 Fire Engine for a

total cost not to exceed \$150,000.00.

Approved By: Deston Dishion 4/10/2025

Approved By: Ethan Aukee 4/10/2025

Approved By: Bret Russell 4/10/2025

Approved By: Deston Dishion 4/10/25