



# 5 FRESNO COUNTY FIRE

PROTECTION DISTRICT

*Honor, Integrity, Cooperation & Professionalism*

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** 10/14/2021  
**To:** Board of Directors  
**Attn:** John Arabian,  
President  
**From:** Fire District Staff  
**Subject:** Purchase of Type 1 Fire Engine

### **BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING PAPER**

#### **ISSUE:**

Staff is asking the Board of Directors to authorize the purchase of a new Type 1 Fire Engine to meet the District's service demands and to keep pace with the fleet replacement plan goals.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The District has worked hard to improve the overall condition and age of its fleet by keeping pace with its purchasing program. This fiscal year the district has realized additional Assistance by Hire (ABH) revenue that can support this purchase.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The District has entered into an agreement with the City of Parlier to provide career staffing at Station 71 beginning on January 1, 2022. The current PCF staffed engine assigned to Station 71 is a 1999 model year (22 years old) and will exceed the District's career staffed apparatus replacement goal of fifteen years, front-line service. Staff has continued to work with our apparatus dealer, Fire Apparatus Solutions (FAS), on keeping our fire engine specification updated on their demonstrator (Demo) model. The dealer demo is nearly complete at the factory (within 30 days of completion) and the District can exercise its first right of refusal on the purchase of the

unit. This timeline aligns well with the District's recent increase in ABH receipts and would allow the District to buy down its near future fleet needs while addressing the age concerns of Engine 71 and our goal to maintain or improve our fleet vitality. This generation fire engine will also have the EZ-trac all-wheel drive capabilities included. If approved, staff recommends that this new apparatus be assigned to Station 82 (Del Rey) and current E82 be re-assigned as new Engine 71. This strategy is aligned with the District's goal of placing newer apparatus in busier (call volume/miles) assignments during the new vehicle warranty period. Operationally, the EZ-Trac all wheel drive technology will serve the District well in the sandy loam terrain of Station 82's area as compared to mostly city driving in Parlier's area.

The City of Santa Clara has a five-year contact with the Rev Group/Spartan/Smeal which includes a tag-on provision that the District can activate to procure this apparatus. A purchase now strategy would bring the vehicle into our fleet at least one year sooner and will result in at least a 5% savings in the purchase price as compared to next fiscal year.

If approved, staff will make a recommendation, at a future date, on options for the re-assignment/surplus/transfer of current Engine 71.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. The Board votes to approve the purchase of a new fire engine under a "tag on" apparatus purchasing agreement with Smeal Fire Apparatus for up to \$670K using ABH funds from this fiscal year.
2. The Board votes not to approve any apparatus purchasing now.

#### **IMPACTS** *(Consider potential consequences related to each of the following areas of concern for proposed alternatives):*

- Fiscal - Authorization of this purchase utilizes \$670k of ABH funds.
- Operational - District fleet will be modernized thus improving operational reliability and in service time. Increased fleet maintenance costs will be incurred as apparatus age without replacement.
- Legal -
- Labor -
- Sociopolitical -
- Policy –
- Health and safety – Personnel will be operating apparatus with the most current safety features.

- Environmental -
- Interagency -

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff is recommending that the Board of Directors approve Option #1 and authorize the Fire Chief and staff to begin the purchase process of the Type 1 fire engine from Smeal Fire Apparatus utilizing a tag-on purchase agreement.

**APPROVED:**

  
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Jeremiah Wittwer, Battalion Chief

10/14/2021  
Date