

# **Board of County Commissioners**

## **Agenda Request**

Date of Meeting: January 25, 2010

Date Submitted: January 8, 2010

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Benjamin H. Pingree, County Administrator  
Lindsay Stevens, Assistant County Administrator  
Scott McDermid, Director, Department of Public Safety  
Louis Lamarche, Chief, Division of Fire Rescue

Subject: Request Board Consideration and Approval to Expend Budgeted Capital Improvement Plan Funds to Purchase a Used 1996 Sutphen 75' Quint Aerial Ladder Truck for County Wide Fire Suppression

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### **Statement of Issue:**

This agenda item requests Board consideration and approval to expend budgeted Capital Improvement Plan funds to purchase a used 1996 Sutphen 75' Quint Aerial Ladder Truck for County Wide Fire Suppression for \$70,000.00.

### **Background:**

Wakulla County's fire suppression system utilizes fire engines as primary response apparatus for structure fires; focusing on safety, access, water sources, suppression strategy, and equipment capabilities. It is by a second request that an aerial apparatus is dispatched to supplement the on-scene fire fighting team. Wakulla County has had one aerial fire apparatus in its boundaries for longer than a decade; a 1972 Snorkel. Prior to the County obtaining a Snorkel, it served an admirable career with Tallahassee's Fire Department. The Tallahassee Fire Department replaced the 1972 Snorkel through basic attrition and donated it to Wakulla County in 1997.

Recently the Snorkel aerial truck was retired because it had reached a point where it could no longer effectively protect the properties of our County. Specifically, the Snorkel aerial has had a series of failures, most recently within the hydraulic out-rigger system that occurred during its pump certification exam; which was the third consecutive certification attempt with a failure. During the period of time that our County is without an aerial apparatus being locally available, the County is dependent on our neighbors at the Tallahassee Fire Department to respond their aerial apparatus. While the Tallahassee Fire Department is ready and willing to provide assistance when able, the drive time alone can eliminate the need for the specialty equipment.

In an effort to secure an aerial apparatus for the County with limited delay, staff has been working with the South Walton Fire District in an effort to purchase a used 50' Pierce Telesquirt. Staff was recently advised that the anticipated 50' Pierce Telesquirt was going to remain in service and would not be available for purchase by Wakulla County. After researching used aerial apparatus; staff has

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identified a potentially remarkable opportunity to purchase a newer, larger, stronger, and more capable used 75 foot aerial apparatus from a Fire Department in Texas.

**Analysis:**

Within the Department of Public Safety's Fire Rescue Division Capital Improvement Plan Budget for Fiscal Year 2009/2010 there are funds appropriated for the purchase of two aerial apparatus. One line is \$50,000.00 for the purchase of the anticipated 50' Pierce Telesquirt from the South Walton Fire District. The other line is \$200,000.00, with a planned \$200,000.00 each year for the next two years totaling \$600,000.00 to purchase a new aerial apparatus. The proposed Sutphen 75' Quint provides a significant advantage in that it is strong and capable enough to serve as our primary response aerial apparatus. Current placement of this apparatus would be at the Medart Volunteer Fire Department who currently hosts the 1972 Snorkel and has the ability to garage an aerial apparatus. If the Medart Volunteer Fire Department is successful in their recent grant application to purchase a new aerial apparatus, this unit will be reassigned to another station within Wakulla County. The Chief of Medart Volunteer Fire Department, Chief Pigott, has reviewed this opportunity and is in full support of this plan.

The 1996 Sutphen 75' Quint is a specialty ladder truck. Sutphen is widely known for being an apparatus of very high quality and typically outside the fiscal reach of rural Counties. These apparatus are assembled with Huck-Bolt technology which is used in aircraft for its strength and longevity. The Huck-Bolt technology is also being implemented in our newest County Fire Engine, which is due for delivery in late January 2010. The 1996 Sutphen 75' Quint has a full Stainless Steel Cab, 500 gallon water tank, Detroit 60 series engine, Allison transmission, six man cab with air conditioning, ground ladders, 1500 gallons per minute Hale pump, Akron A and B foam system, two 1.5" crosslays, one 1.5" front bumper attack line, 1250 gallons per minute master stream and all appropriate emergency vehicle equipment. Staff estimates that it can be placed into service in less than two weeks after its arrival in Wakulla County.

With approval, the technician will drive to Georgetown, Texas to conduct these evaluations on January 15, 2010. Staff has arranged for the County's Certified Emergency Vehicle Technician Fire Apparatus Mechanic to carefully evaluate the condition of the apparatus, as well as an aerial certification test to be performed. If apparatus is acceptable, staff will proceed with the purchase from Account #180-9000-522-649.

This truck, if being offered through a used fire apparatus dealer, would typically be priced between \$150,000 and \$200,000.00, and sold new for approximately \$800,000. The proposed purchase price for the Sutphen is \$70,000.00. This is a reduced price, as it is a sale between Fire Departments. The Fire Chief of the Department selling this apparatus is strong in their commitment to the fire service, which exemplifies assisting other Fire Departments when possible.

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**Options:**

1. Approve the expenditure of budgeted CIP funds to purchase a used 1996 Sutphen 75' Quint Aerial Ladder Truck for \$70,000.00.
2. Do not approve the expenditure of budgeted CIP funds to purchase a used 1996 Sutphen 75' Quint Aerial Ladder Truck for \$70,000.00.
3. Board Direction.

**Recommendation:**

Option #1

**Attachment(s):**

1. Apparatus Specifications and Pictures