

# **Board of County Commissioners**

## **Agenda Request**

Date of Meeting: June 16, 2009

Date Submitted: June 1, 2009

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

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

Subject: Request Board Approval to Purchase a New Rosenbauer Custom Chassis Fire Engine for the Principal use of The Wakulla County Fire Rescue Division

---

### **Statement of Issue:**

This agenda item requests Board approval to purchase a Rosenbauer custom cab rescue pumper fire truck for Wakulla County Fire Rescue. The total purchase price for this vehicle is \$323,244.00.

### **Background:**

Wakulla County Fire Rescue was created by the BOCC in 2007 to serve as the County's career fire department, as a supplement to the existing volunteer fire department system. Since its inception, the career department staff has been hosted by the Crawfordville Volunteer Fire Department (Station 8). Through the gracious hosting by Crawfordville Fire Department, the career staff has been using the Crawfordville Volunteer Fire Department's first-out engine. When the career staff uses the Station 8 first-out engine, they then leave the volunteer department staff with a reduced response capability. As a direct result of the constant use by career staff, there is an obvious wear on the Station 8 first-out engine's commercial chassis. Since Wakulla County Fire Rescue career staff responds automatic aid throughout the County to assist all volunteer stations, career staff is in need of a sturdier apparatus that is able to carry a greater assortment of equipment. If approved, the purchase of this vehicle will enable Wakulla County's career staff to respond to and aid other areas of the County without depleting Crawfordville VFD of the apparatus needed to cover its own portion of the County.

### **Analysis:**

An evaluation committee was formed to create the specifications for an apparatus that would fulfill the need of the career staff, while providing the best value for the dollar. The evaluation committee consisted of Volunteer Firefighters, a Volunteer Fire Chief, Career Firefighters, and the Interim County Fire Chief. The evaluation committee consulted with the County's apparatus mechanic, who is a certified Emergency Vehicle Technician. The committee members visited with other Fire Departments that currently use the type of trucks being evaluated and then

Agenda Request: Request Board Approval to Purchase a New Rosenbauer Custom Chassis Fire Engine for the Principal use of The Wakulla County Fire Rescue Division

June 16, 2009

Page 2

---

collectively agreed upon the specifications for the vehicle. The completed specifications were then sent to the three (3) fire apparatus manufacturers: E-One, Peirce, and Rosenbauer. Each manufacturer provided bids according to the specifications (Attachment #1). The Rosenbauer truck was chosen after thorough review of the three returned bids. This truck will come complete with all NFPA and OSHA compliant equipment, allowing for both complete compliance with all applicable standards and the ability to immediately place this apparatus into service upon receipt. The truck was then presented, as recommended by the evaluation committee, to the Volunteer Chiefs' as a group. The 6 Volunteer Fire Departments present at the meeting on June 1, 2009 voted unanimously to support the purchase of the apparatus recommended by the evaluation committee.

The funding for this purchase has been diligently saved for many years by the Volunteer Departments in Wakulla County. It is through their diligent savings that this purchase is even possible in these difficult fiscal times. The funds for this purchase are available in the following budget accounts: #180-9000-522-644-000 for \$150,000.00, #180-9000-522-991-000 for \$98,310.00 and #180-9000-522-992-000 for \$74,934.00. During the initial planning stages, discussion was focused on the purchase of a new aerial apparatus for the County. The focus on purchasing an aerial apparatus was changed when the evident wear on Station 8's commercial chassis engine was determined to be too great. The need for a stronger and more capable custom chassis first response rescue engine was determined by both staff and the Volunteer Fire Chiefs' as a greater priority for the County's fire system. The Medart Volunteer Fire Department recently submitted an Assistance to Firefighter's Grant for a 75 foot Quint Apparatus, which will meet the need in replacing our current aerial apparatus.

The proposed apparatus for purchase is a Spartan custom cab chassis that is a much stronger chassis compared to the commercial chassis found on the Station 8 first-out engine currently used by County career staff. This truck is assembled with a huck bolt system, which is used by airline manufactures for the added strength and durability. This truck is designed specifically to handle the volume of calls that career staff must run on a day to day basis. Additionally, the truck will have 1000 gallons of water and 1250 gallons per minute pump; the truck also has ample storage for rescue equipment and first response medical supplies and equipment. With this apparatus career staff will be able to begin operations and sustain themselves long enough to give the volunteers time to respond to them.

**Options:**

1. Approve to purchase of a new 2009 Rosenbauer Custom Cab Rescue Pumper Fire Engine.
2. Do not approve to purchase of new 2009 Rosenbauer Custom Cab Rescue Pumper Fire Engine.
3. Board direction.

Agenda Request: Request Board Approval to Purchase a New Rosenbauer Custom Chassis Fire Engine for the Principal use of The Wakulla County Fire Rescue Division  
June 16, 2009  
Page 3

---

**Recommendation:**

Option #1

**Attachment(s):**

1. Bids submitted by the three apparatus manufacturers