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Administration
Fire Suppression
Fire Investigation
Fire Training
Fire Prevention
Special Operations

MEMORANDUM

July 14, 2021

To: Bob Harrison
City Manager

From: Aaron Markham
Fire Chief

Re: Equipment Repair and Replacement Plan

Mr. Harrison,

At the July 6, 2021, City Council meeting, Council requested staff to bring back to the next City Council meeting the Equipment Repair and Replacement Sustainability Plan for YFD for discussion. The challenge to fund the replacement of the department's fleet dates back to the early 2000s, if not longer. The City has not been in a financial position to purchase apparatus on a cash basis for many years based on the research that I conducted. The main source of funding for apparatus purchases has come through some form of financial lending (e.g.: the Office of the State Treasurer's LOCAL program, interfund loans, available cash reserves or proceeds from bonds).

When developing a plan to replace fire apparatus, a department cannot simply rely on a set standard or a one size fits all approach. There are several factors that need to be considered as to when an apparatus has reached its serviceable lifespan and needs to be replaced or placed in a reserve status to extend its life. These factors include: the age of the apparatus, miles/hours, overall condition, how often it has needed repairs and is it lack of current safety features that are offered in newer vehicles. Previous City Councils have been given the following replacement cycle recommendation for YFD apparatus: front line fire engines should be moved to a reserve status after twelve (12) years of service and then retired after an additional five (5) years in a reserve capacity; fire department ladder trucks should be replaced after twenty (20) years of service. In my opinion, this plan of replacement is still valid today. Planning to replace an apparatus around 17 years of service allows for some flexibility in situations where this may have to be postponed for a year or two. The ultimate goal however, would be to replace apparatus at the 20 years of service benchmark.

The main focus of the replacement plan targets the most expensive pieces of apparatus, like the fire engines and ladder trucks. Our replacement spreadsheet includes all of the rolling stock used by the fire department to include: command and utility vehicles, brush trucks and tenders as well as boats and trailers. The criteria used for replacing these vehicles is the same as what is listed

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We are committed to serving with courage and compassion as stewards of public trust
We shall leave a positive and genuine impact on all who call upon us

above. There is a column on the spreadsheet that indicates the anticipated lifespan of the vehicle itself.

I hope this memo explains some of the background and thought processes used in determining a life cycle replacement plan. If you have any questions or request any further information, I would be more than happy to research it and provide you some answers.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron J. Markham
Fire Chief