

**PLACER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
M E M O R A N D U M**

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Holly Heinzen, Interim County Executive Officer
by: Rui Cunha, Assistant Director, Emergency Services

Date: June 19, 2012

Subject: Approve a Budget Revision to increase expenditures by \$532,000 to allow the purchase of a used ladder truck for North Auburn/Ophir Fire (NA/OF), add the truck to the Master Fixed Asset List, cancel Fixed Asset Acquisition and Capital Facilities Mitigation reserves in the amount of \$332,000 and \$200,000 respectively and authorize the Procurement Officer to execute and sign all documents necessary to finalize the purchase.

ACTION REQUESTED

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve a Budget Revision increasing expenditures by \$532,000 to purchase a used ladder truck for North Auburn/Ophir Fire (NA/OF) to replace its existing Truck 180;
2. Add the new-used truck to the Master Fixed Asset List;
3. Cancel Fixed Asset Acquisition and Capital Facilities Mitigation reserves in the amount of \$332,000 and \$200,000 respectively; and
4. Authorize the Procurement Officer to execute and sign all documents necessary to finalize the purchase.

BACKGROUND

A commonly used schedule would replace a frontline ladder truck every 20 years. While this schedule is an industry accepted guideline, it is also not uncommon to extend the life of a frontline ladder truck by as much as ten years. This replacement guideline ensures that annual maintenance costs are minimized, parts are readily available and safety standards remain current. In NA/OF's case Ladder Truck 180 is 31 years old, is primarily a rescue truck with no water pumping capabilities and costs NA/OF several thousand dollars annually in repair costs associated with maintaining required certifications.

NA/OF requires a more capable ladder truck as a result of the past and planned addition of large box stores within the response area and approved multi-story residential development along Bell Road. Additionally, the current ladder truck does not have an on-board water storage capacity, it cannot pump water from a hydrant nor can it "flow" water through a system at a large scale fire. While the existing ladder truck has been valuable for its multi-story rescue capability and equipment and firefighter carrying capacity the new ladder truck will add water storage and significant pumping capabilities.

The Galleria Mall Fire in 2010 in Roseville illustrated the type of ladder truck that is being proposed for purchase – a truck with the capability to be both a "ladder," while also being able to carry, flow, pump, and project water deep into the perimeter of a fire. The 2009 Smeal, 105' Rear Mount Aerial Ladder Truck is almost new as it was leased for only three years by the fire department at the Presidio of Monterey. It has only 15,000 miles, has all of the capabilities listed above and new, would sell for approximately \$850,000 without equipment. The truck has a 2000 gallon per minute (gpm) pumping capability and can carry up to 600 gallons of water on

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board. This purchase accrues significant savings to NA/OF some of which will, however, be needed to add on-board equipment such as couplings, nozzles, hoses, fittings, etc. Specifications of the 2009 Smeal are the same as those for Truck 77 at the Casino Station. The Placer County Fire system is expecting efficiencies in training, equipping and maintenance associated with a common ladder truck model.

The Placer County Board of Supervisors has been briefed on the need to replace Truck 180, most recently in December 2011. At that time, staff presented its intentions to seek an opportunity to purchase a newer used ladder truck, with focus on making the purchase in FY 2012/13. This past April, senior CALFIRE staff made Placer County staff aware of the availability of a used 2009 Smeal, 105' Rear Mount Aerial Ladder Truck through Fire Truck Headquarters.

INVESTMENT IN NA/OF

The attached Budget Revision uses \$200,000 from Fire Service Capital Mitigation reserves, accounting for new capabilities directly attributable to both current and future growth in the NA/OF area. In addition with your Board's approval, staff will pursue cancellation of \$332,000 from reserves designated for fixed asset replacement. With the addition of new capabilities and the use of Capital Facilities Mitigation funding, this purchase will reduce the anticipated impact on NA/OF reserves by \$168,000. As service reductions materialize in the NA/OF area, maintaining a ladder truck capability is a priority. As recommended, this purchase not only maintains the ladder truck capability, but it also minimizes impacts to reserves and makes a 25-30 year investment in the future of NA/OF.

FISCAL IMPACT

With approval of the attached Budget Revision, funds for the purchase of the new-used ladder truck will be available in the North Auburn//Ophir Fire CSA (Appropriation 67930). There is no impact to the General Fund as a result of this action.

Attachment

Budget Revision

