

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION**

Resolution authorizing execution of an agreement with Hughes Fire Equipment, Inc. to purchase four replacement fire engines for the Bellevue Fire Department, in an amount not to exceed \$4,523,150, plus all applicable taxes.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This Resolution authorizes execution of an agreement with Hughes Fire Equipment, Inc. to purchase four replacement fire engines for the Bellevue Fire Department.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10209

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

The current production lead time for the manufacturing of these fire engines is approximately 45 months (up from the historical 14 months) due to commodity shortages combined with an accumulative surge of orders placed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2022. Ordering now will lock the order in the production queue to ensure the new fire trucks arrive in time for the planned 2026 replacement schedule (end of 2026).

The Bellevue Fire Department exists to control risk to life, property, and community vitality, which may be threatened by fire or other emergency events. The Fire Department effectively responds through strategic deployment of resources and rapid response of personnel and equipment.

The Fire Department directly serves the City of Bellevue and contractually provides fire suppression, rescue, and emergency medical services to six neighboring jurisdictions, encompassing a total of 43 square miles and more than 153,000 residents. Those jurisdictions are Beaux Arts Village, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Medina, Newcastle, and Yarrow Point. The department currently operates nine front-line plus four reserve fire engines deployed from nine fire stations geographically located to provide timely response to emergency calls for service.

The new fire engines will replace four reserve engines that have met their serviceable life. Replacing emergency response apparatus on schedule ensures the City is well-equipped to provide emergency services to the community, and enables the Fire Department to meet these performance measures:

- Fires confined to room of origin

- Total emergency response time less than six minutes
- Total dollar loss from fire

### **Fleet Standardization**

The purchase of these replacement fire engines represents our continued effort to standardize the City's fleet to Pierce manufactured fire apparatus. Standardization provides the following benefits:

- Reduces training for Fire Department personnel on redundant systems, creating greater efficiencies of operation during emergency response.
- Increases familiarity with equipment when Fire Department members rotate between fire stations
- Improves efficiency of maintenance and repairs, thus reducing equipment downtime
- Reduces costs due to compatibility with existing equipment, inventory, and systems

Since 2007 the City has been replacing all City fire apparatus with Pierce manufactured equipment which has proven to be a very dependable product from both an operational and maintenance perspective.

Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. has been in business for more than 100 years. They are a sole source manufacturer, building and assembling the entire truck at one facility. Pierce is ranked number one in sales in the United States with 37 percent of the market share. The local Pierce dealer, Hughes Fire Equipment, Inc. has been in business for 35 years. The City of Bellevue has operated Pierce equipment for nearly 15 years with excellent support from both companies.

An additional advantage of purchasing from Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. is that they have an approved warranty service center in Tacoma. Having a relatively close repair facility significantly reduces the amount of time that a frontline apparatus is out of service, during which time Fire Department staff must utilize backup reserve trucks.

### **Environmental Stewardship Strategy**

Bellevue Fire Department is committed to the mission of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative by embracing innovative green technologies to reduce the City's carbon footprint. The Bellevue Fire Department is currently applying for grant funding to purchase one new Pierce electric fire engine to replace a fifth fire engine also scheduled for replacement in 2026.

The four replacement fire engines to be approved with this Resolution will include Idle Reduction Technology (IRT). This will mitigate carbon emissions resulting from the many hours of engine idling that occurs on scene and is required by the current apparatus to power all peripheral equipment such as lighting, communications, auxiliary power, and environmental systems. The IRT system will allow the engine to shut down and only run for pump operation to suppress fires.

Based on a four-year trend, the City's fire trucks spend an average of 22.69 minutes idling on scene averaging four calls per day. Using these indicators, Pierce Manufacturing estimates the new IRT system will reduce carbon emissions by 360 tons over the 15-year life of these replacement fire engines. This will assist the City in meeting its goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

This purchase will utilize an interlocal agreement between the City of Bellevue and the Houston-Galveston Area Council that has a contract in place to purchase from Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. The

City has benefitted from this cooperative purchasing arrangement for many years as it is a large consortium of public agencies and consequently obtains very competitive pricing.

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impact**

#### Bellevue City Code

- BCC 4.28 provides for the fair and equitable treatment of all persons involved in the purchasing process. Council approval is required for purchases in excess of \$90,000.
- BCC 4.28.150 authorizes the Director of Finance and Asset Management to join in cooperative purchasing arrangements with other public agencies, cooperatives or consortiums when it would be in the best interests of the City.

#### Bellevue Comprehensive Plan

- Neighborhood Element: N-2. Ensure police, fire and emergency services provide high levels of public safety that respond to growth and changing community needs.

### **Fiscal Impact**

This agreement will obligate the City to pay \$4,523,150, plus all applicable taxes, for the purchase of four replacement fire engines for delivery in 2026.

The source funding for the purchase is the Mechanical Equipment Rental Fund (MERF) replacement account. This expenditure is planned and funds have been reserved as is required by MERF policy. Funds received from the surplus sale of the equipment being replaced will be deposited into the MERF replacement account for the future replacement needs.

## **OPTIONS**

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing execution of an agreement with Hughes Fire Equipment, Inc. to purchase four replacement fire engines for the Bellevue Fire Department, in an amount not to exceed \$4,523,150, plus all applicable taxes.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Proposed Resolution No. 10209

## **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

Proposed purchase agreement between the City of Bellevue and Hughes Fire Equipment, Inc.  
Houston-Galveston Area Council Contract signature page