

CITY OF PALMER ACTION MEMORANDUM No. 10-056

SUBJECT: Authorize the City Manager to Purchase Two New Fire and Rescue Command Vehicle Pickup Trucks in the Amount of \$51,039 from Alaska Sales and Service Using the State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development Grant Funds

AGENDA OF: August 10, 2010

Council action:	Authorized
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Approved for presentation by B. B. Allen, City Manager Bob Casey

Route To:	Department/Individual:	Initials/Date:	Remarks:
X	Originator –	JA 7/14/2010	
X	City Clerk	JB 8/3/10	
X	City Attorney	[Signature] 8/3/10	
X	Director of Administration	[Signature]	
	Director of Community Development		
	Director of Community Services		
	Director of Public Safety		
	Director of Public Works		

Attachment(s):

Certification of Funds:

	No fiscal impact.	
	Funds are budgeted from this account number:	
x	Funds are not budgeted. Budget modification is required. Affected account number: 09-01-10-6053 Subject to approval of Resolution 10-053 accepting the DCCED grant.	\$51,039
	Unrestricted/undesignated fund balance (after budget modification):	

Director of Administration Signature: [Signature]

Summary statement: The City of Palmer has received a State of Alaska legislative appropriation in the amount of \$100,000 to purchase two new fire command vehicles and personal protective equipment for Palmer Fire and Rescue. The remainder of the grant will be spent on a variety of personal protective equipment (see Resolution No. 10-053).

It is essential that the command officers have a reliable 4-wheel drive command vehicle capable

of safe operation in rugged road conditions. When the command officers arrive on a fire scene, the command officer assumes responsibility for the safety of responders and effective response to the fire. Customarily, the fire officer uses the command vehicle as the Incident Command Post. Additionally, the command vehicle often becomes a "rehab" center, in which responders and fire or accident victims can find shelter and warmth. The vehicle for the Fire Chief will be a crew cab model, allowing for rehab. The Assistant Chief's new command vehicle will be an extended cab, which, though not as convenient, still allows for rehab. The Assistant Chief's vehicle will be a long bed model, equipped with a wildland fire pump to include a water tank for use during the summer months. (A crew cab would make the long bed model unwieldy due to length.)

Currently, the Fire Chief uses a 1997 Ford Expedition which was purchased used at surplus. This vehicle, an SUV, has proven unsatisfactory as a command vehicle. Often, during a fire or vehicle accident, the rear doors of this SUV must remain open so that the Fire Chief and other responders can access equipment stored in the aft compartment. This causes the interior to lose heat, resulting in the vehicle being ineffective as a "rehab" center for responders and victims. This 13 year old SUV, while still serviceable, is nearing the end of its useful life as a daily command vehicle for the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief needs to have a safe 4-wheel drive pickup to be able to respond safely with lights and siren to emergencies.

Currently, the Assistant Fire Chief/Training Officer uses a 2001 Ford F250 that has nearly 100,000 miles on it. This 10 year old pickup, while still serviceable, is nearing the end of its useful life as a daily command vehicle for the Assistant Fire Chief/Training Officer. This vehicle is used to respond to emergencies in the Palmer area and is also tasked for transportation of firefighters and equipment to and from emergency scenes.

The Chief's vehicle will be equipped with a cap over the bed area, allowing for safe and effective storage of needed equipment such as thermal imaging cameras, gas detection devices, and radio communications gear. The bed of the Chief's command vehicle needs to be equipped with a slide-out command unit, to enable rapid access to emergency equipment as well as pre-fire plans of Palmer's buildings at a fire scene. This slide-out unit is an additional purchase, but is fully customizable for ease of use in Palmer's inclement weather conditions. The slide-out command unit will cost less than \$5,000 including shipping to Anchorage. (The slide-out command unit, the canopy, and other emergency equipment will also be purchased under this grant.) The Chevrolet crew cab in 4-wheel drive will cost \$25,292. The extended cab, long bed 4-wheel drive Chevrolet truck costs \$25,747. Both vehicles are to be purchased utilizing the State of Alaska Department of Transportation Contract Prices.

Administration recommendation: Approve action memorandum 10-056.