



**TO:** Mayor Tom Ross  
Members of the City Council

**FROM:** Kelli Kronschnabel, Fire Chief

**DATE:** April 10, 2024

**SUBJECT: USED FIRE ENGINE BUDGET REQUEST**

**I. RECOMMENDED ACTION**

1. It is recommended City Council approve the purchase of a used fire engine and waive the City of Minot procurement requirements; and
2. Approve a budget amendment of \$400,000 for the purchase and up fit of a used fire engine on first reading.

**II. DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSONS**

Kelli Kronschnabel, Fire Chief 701-857-4740

**III. DESCRIPTION**

A. Background

It has been identified that there is a need for an additional reserve engine within the Minot Fire Department. We currently have only one true reserve engine, with five stations open. With the complexities of vehicles these days, parts availabilities, and supply chain delays, there have been multiple times over the last year where we have had two apparatus in need of repairs at the same time and no reserve units available within the MFD if another apparatus were to have had mechanical or electrical issues. This may lead to a time where we don't have an apparatus available.

We had to destroy one of our engines to get one of our new front-line engines, per the parameters of the Volkswagen grant. This kept us from rolling that truck into reserve status. This truck had some issues that needed to be addressed, so the benefits outweighed the negatives at the time.

B. Proposed Project

We are requesting that the City Council approve a budget of \$400,000 to allow us to purchase and upfit a used fire engine. This will allow us to have an additional engine available in the event we have vehicles that are unusable. Used engines are available through a variety of vendors but it is difficult to compare apples to apples. We would like to request that we have the ability to purchase the best apparatus found, that is within budget and meets our department's needs. We will be having our fleet mechanic verify how mechanically sound of the apparatus, review maintenance records and that it meets pump test requirements.

C. Consultant Selection

**IV. IMPACT:**

A. Strategic Impact:

By obtaining an additional reserve engine, our mechanic can still perform preventative maintenance (PM) on the other apparatus if one is down for major repairs and waiting on parts. Currently, the PM has to wait until the apparatus is fixed, due to not having an additional engine to put online for the apparatus needing PM. This will slowly degrade the quality and life expectancy of our current fleet. This will also help with the need for an additional apparatus for callback personnel to cover the city during large-scale emergencies.

B. Service/Delivery Impact:

This would be a reserve engine for us, but must meet all the requirements and pass an annual pump test.

C. Fiscal Impact:

While researching used apparatus for sale through brokers and other departments directly, the average cost for an apparatus that would complement our fleet is roughly \$350-400K, just for the apparatus, no equipment included. This is roughly a third to half of what a new engine would cost. The recommended budget amendment includes money coming from general fund reserves.

**V. CITY COUNCIL ASPIRATIONS**

*safe and welcoming; resilient and prepared*

**VI. ALTERNATIVES**

Council can deny the request and we will be looking to put the request to order a new engine in 2025 budget.

**VII. TIME CONSTRAINTS**

We would like to purchase an apparatus as soon as possible, with September being a hard deadline. Our personnel need time to stock and install equipment on the truck, install the radio and Opticom, and then train and familiarize themselves with the apparatus prior to freezing weather.

**VIII. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

1. Budget Amendment