



City Commission Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/20/2021

From: Les Parks, Interim Fire Chief

Item: Grass Fire, Vehicle Purchase

Purpose:

Consideration for the City of Arkansas City to purchase a 5-ton, 6x6 military vehicle, a water tank, paint, and miscellaneous equipment needed to transform the vehicle so that it can be used to fight grass fires. This vehicle would replace a 2019 Ford E450 that we have had several issues with. Some of these issues include, problems navigating in fields when conditions are even slightly wet and the front end has had a shimmy in it ever since it was new. We replaced the tires with a mud grip, higher grade tire, hoping to eliminate both of these problems. After making these changes, we have noticed some improvements but the front end is still presenting with a shimmy. Last year we had to replace the front end. Due to the modifications previously made on the front end, the front end replacement was not under warranty. The repairs mentioned above have cost the Department a total of \$7,630. 89.

Background:

We are currently looking for a vehicle that matches the description above. The closest location we have found, that has this type of vehicle, is at Midwest Military Equipment in Washington, Missouri. We have found that once they get this particular vehicle in stock it sells rather quickly. Therefore, we would like approval to proceed with the purchase of said vehicle when one becomes available. After receiving approval we will inspect the vehicle before the purchase is finalized. Other locations that we have found similar vehicles include, Oshkosh, Wisconsin; Owatonna, Minnesota; and Ogden, Utah.

Commission Options:

1. Approve
2. Disapprove
3. Table

Fiscal Impact:

Amount: \$55,000

Fund: 01

Department: 310

Expense Code: 7404 (Fire Trucks/Ambulances)

Included in budget

Grant

Bonds

Other (explain)

Explanation:

This item has not been budgeted for. The plan is to sell the 2019 Ford E450 that we currently have and replace it with this vehicle that we are requesting.

Attachments

We have attached a photo of our current Grass Rig so that you can see how the new one will be set up, if we are approved for a new one.

Approved for Agenda by:

Randy Frazer, City Manager