



Bristol Fire Department

Inter Office Memorandum

To: Steven Contente, Town Administrator
From: Michael DeMello, Fire Chief
cc: File
Date: December 23, 2025
Re: Authorization to Order New Ladder 1, January 7 Council Meeting

2025 DEC 23 AM 9:52

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

The current Ladder 1, a 2008 E-One, has served the department well, having 21,552 miles and 2,731 engine hours at the time of this memorandum. As the only ladder truck in the fleet replacement of this vehicle is recommended at or slightly past the 20-year time frame. The current truck has had significant engine work completed, including re-sleeving of cylinders, hydraulic work to aerial controls, and continues to have intermittent electrical issues.

The current projected delivery time for a new ladder vehicle is at least 2.5 to 3 years at a projected cost of \$2,100,000. Most of the equipment on the existing vehicle would be transferred to the new vehicle, some equipment replacement is expected.

Delivery of a new Ladder 1 would be expected between January 1, 2028 and Jul 1, 2029, therefore funds would not need to be appropriated until the budget process for those time frames, apart from pre-payment of the chassis to avoid any storage fees and obtain any available discounts.

Ordering the vehicle now not only places the vehicle into the production schedule, but it also contracts current pricing, which will likely continue to increase year over year.

If you are in concurrence, I request this item to be placed on January 7, 2026, Town Council agenda for the purpose of authorizing the order of a new Ladder 1 vehicle for delivery on or after July 1, 2028.

 12-23-25