Ambulance Replacement Program

PUBLIC SAFETY & COURT COMMITTEE

APRIL 8, 2025

Sustaining Frontline Emergency Response Capacity

- Replace 4 frontline ambulances placed in service October 2023
- Maintain reliable EMS and fire response capability
- Align with CIP (FY2028 funding: $2.652M)

Current Fleet Overview

- 3 full-time ambulances (24/7)
- 1 peak ambulance (8a–8p weekdays)
- 1 reserve ambulances
- All units staffed by **firefighter/paramedics**

Our ambulances function as dual-role Fire/EMS units—supporting EMS response and fireground operations.

Fleet Transition Plan

Building Capacity and Standardizing the Fleet

In October 2023, the department placed four Demers ambulances into service
- Utilized as 3 frontline units and 1 reserve

In FY2025, Council approved the purchase of two additional Horton ambulances
- Address proper reserve capacity
- Support implementation of a peak-time ambulance
- Provide increased space for fire-based EMS operations

Current Transition Plan:
- Place the two new Horton ambulances into service
  - First Horton has arrived and been placed into service.
  - The second Horton is expected by the end of May 2026.
- Continue utilizing existing Demers units within the fleet
- Replace all four Demers units with Horton ambulances through the CIP

Unit	Current	Projected @ Replacement
M1	61,125	~125,000–135,000
M4	65,867	~135,000–145,000
M3	52,390	~110,000–120,000
M16	54,435	~115,000–125,000

High Utilization

- Rotated fleet to balance wear
- High call volume + dual-role use
- These units experience above-average wear due to continuous deployment and fireground responsibilities.

Planned Replacement (CIP 2028)

In-service: Oct 2023

Replacement: Late 2028–Early 2029 (~5 years)

Projected mileage:

115,000–145,000 miles

Risk of Delayed Replacement

Current Issues with Demers Units

- Increasing mechanical failures
- Downtime impacts system reliability
- Reserve units become frontline
- Air ride suspension failures emerging
- Already replaced one system
- Additional failures anticipated
- Parts delays (Canada sourcing)

We are beginning to see early signs of lifecycle-related failures.

Why Horton

Operational Advantages:

- Larger module → supports fire-based EMS operations

Space for:

- Bunker gear
- SCBA
- Forcible entry tools

Safety:

- Rollover-tested design
- Reinforced module attachment
- Integrated airbag systems
- Improved crew protection

Logistics:

- Built in USA
- Faster parts availability
- Reduced downtime

Financial:

- Planned remount capability (2 lifecycles)
- Standardizes our ambulance fleet

Procurement Considerations

- Current build time: ~30 months
- CIP FY2028: $2,652,000 (4 units + equipment)
- Lifecycle strategy:
- Initial purchase
- Future remounts = cost savings

Financial Overview

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THE CITY OF BURLESON TEXAS

BURLESON FIRE/EMS

Questions & Comment

Requested Council Feedback

- Proceed with planned CIP purchase of 4 Horton ambulances
- Maintain replacement schedule
- Continue fleet standardization