



Item Brief

Meeting Date

January 14, 2025

Agenda Item

Discuss and consider action: Providing direction to the City Manager pertaining to the acquisition of an Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) truck: M. Ingram

Information

During the development of the new hangar currently under construction at the Burnet Municipal Airport, it was determined that a sprinkler system, estimated to cost approximately \$200,000-\$250,000, would be required due to the nature of the usage of the hangar as a maintenance facility. However, in the aviation industry, sprinkler systems in hangars are often seen as detrimental to aircraft, particularly in cases of accidental activation. Recognizing this concern, the Fire Marshal and City staff, under the fire code, identified an alternative solution to meet fire safety requirements: the acquisition of an Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) truck.

The ARFF truck offers a highly effective and versatile solution for fire safety at the airport. These specialized vehicles are designed to handle the unique challenges of aviation emergencies, such as flammable jet fuel fires, passenger evacuations, and the need for off-road maneuverability on and around the airfield. Unlike a sprinkler system, an ARFF truck provides broader coverage and long-term utility. In addition to servicing the new hangar, the ARFF truck will also be available to respond to emergencies at the CAF Hangar and Crosby Maintenance Hangar, both of which lack sprinkler systems. Furthermore, the truck would support future expansion, including the 8 additional hangars planned as part of the airport's future use plan.

The ARFF truck under consideration is the Attackmaster QRV from Global ARFF Services, a compact yet powerful vehicle built on a Ford F-550 crew cab 4x4 platform. It is equipped with advanced firefighting capabilities, including a 300-gallon water tank, a 40-gallon foam tank, and a 450-pound dry chemical system designed for flammable liquid, gas, or electrical fires. The truck also features dual-agent capability, allowing foam and dry chemical agents to be deployed simultaneously. Additional features include a 300-foot hose reel, a front bumper remote-control nozzle with a 60-foot reach, and an off-road package with skid plates, reinforced bumpers, and ample storage for tools and equipment. This vehicle is FAA-compliant, purpose-built for airport emergencies, and offers off-road versatility for other potential city needs.

The proposed ARFF truck has a notably long lead time; however, this specific vehicle is already in production and could be delivered in approximately 9-12 months if the City commits to the purchase. Staff have determined that the ARFF truck is an economical and versatile alternative to a sprinkler system in the new hangar, and purchasing this particular truck would reduce the usual lead time by half. Nonetheless, additional considerations are being investigated, including training requirements, specialized gear, and ensuring an appropriate storage facility for the vehicle.

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide information about the ARFF truck and associated expenses while seeking direction from the City Council regarding the next steps for this purchase and its implementation.

Fiscal Impact

The cost of the ARFF truck is \$353,000. The cost of outfitting the truck is \$34,000. The cost of one set of proximity gear is \$2,500. The cost of one person attending training for the ARFF truck at TEEX is \$1,500 plus room and meals. The additional consideration of appropriate storage has not been fully developed or priced.

Recommendation

Staff requests direction for the City Manager regarding the ARFF truck.