



COLUMBIA HEIGHTS - FIRE DEPARTMENT -

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TO: Columbia Heights City Council

FROM: Charles Thompson, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: Discussion to purchase fire truck/loose equipment

INTRODUCTION:

During the October 5th City Council work-session, the Fire Chief gave a presentation on the capital purchase of a new fire engine in 2021. During this presentation he provided specific details about purchasing custom-chassis fire engines versus commercial chassis fire engine. During the January 4th City Council work session, Chief Thompson will present a summary of the prior presentation, offer additional information on the purchase, and answer any additional questions or listen to comments regarding the purchase. With this presentation he will also submit a finalized cost for the engine purchase.

DISCUSSION:

The Fire Chief will propose the purchase of a new engine through the (HGAC), Huston Galveston Area Purchasing Consortium. The purchasing consortium has become extremely popular in Minnesota due to the ease of enrollment and the financial advantages offered. The legacy process used for purchasing apparatus involved researching, writing, and formalizing the apparatus specifications, advertising the specifications for bid, reviewing bids for compliance, and awarding the bids to a manufacturer. The HGAC procurement process, a simpler process, complies will all requirements of Minnesota State Statue. Volume purchasing power, discounts, broad area product sales, distribution and service, end labor savings, expedited procurement procedures, and the specialized support staff HGAC are all benefits of this process. Membership in the HGAC is free. Members are charged a flat rate of \$2,000.00 for each purchase. The Fire Department has previously purchased several vehicles through the HGAC with great success.

RECOMMENDATION:

Review the information presented by the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief at the January 4th work session.

