



City of Colusa California

## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** February 03, 2026

**TO:** City of Colusa Mayor and Council Members

**FROM:** Logan Conley, Fire Chief, through Jesse Cain, City Manager

**AGENDA ITEM:** Intent to secure Sourcewell Contract and Plan for Purchase of an Aerial Ladder Truck.

**Recommendation:** Receive this report and provide directions authorizing staff to secure the order through a Sourcewell contract and begin planning and funding strategies for the purchase of an aerial ladder truck with an estimated cost of \$1.6 million.

### **BACKGROUND ANALYSIS:**

The City of Colusa Fire Department provides fire suppression, rescue, and emergency services to residential, commercial, and industrial occupancies, including multi-story buildings within the city limits. A ladder truck is a critical component of a modern fire department and provides capabilities that cannot be duplicated by engine companies alone, including aerial access for rescue and ventilation, elevated master streams, a full ground ladder complement, and specialized tools for operations at apartments, schools, and large or multi-story structures. These capabilities directly improve firefighter safety, civilian rescue, and effective fire suppression.

The Fire Department's current apparatus fleet does not include a ladder truck. While the City currently maintains an ISO Class 3 rating—helping keep property insurance rates lower for residents and businesses—the absence of aerial apparatus places ongoing pressure on maintaining this rating, particularly as the city continues to grow and building height and density increase. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards and best practices recognize ladder trucks as a key component of municipal fire protection for communities with commercial occupancies and multi-story structures. Reliance on mutual aid is not always reliable during simultaneous incidents or large-scale emergencies, underscoring the need for local aerial capability.

Fire apparatus manufacturing timelines have increased significantly in recent years, with ladder truck delivery commonly ranging from 24 to 36 months or longer. The aerial presented in this staff report is estimated to be completed in 20 months. Early planning is necessary to evaluate funding options, pursue financing or grant opportunities, and prevent

future operational gaps. The estimated cost of a ladder truck is approximately \$1.5 million, depending on specifications and market conditions.

The Fire Department is currently operating frontline fire engines that are up to 24 years old, with the newest engine now 13 years old. NFPA safety standards recommend apparatus exceeding 10 years of service be placed into reserve status and replaced as first-out units. A ladder truck would not only address critical aerial and rescue needs but would also serve as the Department's first-out apparatus for structure fires and rescue calls, improving operational reliability, firefighter safety, and overall emergency response effectiveness.

Many of the Fire Department's engines, BLS transport units, and staff vehicles have been purchased or partially funded through a combination of Strike Team revenues, grant funding, and General Fund revenues. For additional details regarding purchase history and funding sources, please refer to Exhibit A.

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

No immediate fiscal impact. Future funding options may include a combination of Strike Team funds, grants, financing, or other revenue sources, subject to City Council approval.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Authorizing staff to begin planning for a ladder truck will allow the city to responsibly evaluate operational needs, funding strategies, and long-term impacts while preserving fire protection capabilities, firefighter safety, and the City's ISO rating.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Exhibit A: Current Apparatus and Funding History

Exhibit B: Photograph of 75-foot ladder truck and 24-foot ground ladder

Exhibit C: Purchase quote and build specs from Rosenbauer fire apparatus manufacturer.