



## City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

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**Title:** Purchase of a Pierce Manufacturing 107' Ascendant Aerial Ladder Truck

**CEQA:** Not a Project

**Recommendation:** That 1) Council direct the Fire Chief to enter into an agreement with Pierce Manufacturing for one 107' Ascendant Aerial Ladder Truck, subject to legal review; 2) Direct the Finance Director to make necessary budget adjustments in the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year Budget.

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**Prepared by:** Mark Buttron- Fire Chief

**Council Meeting Date:** 04/08/2025

**Date Prepared:** 04/01/2025

**Agenda:** Consent

**Background Information:**

Grass Valley operates the only Ladder Truck in Western Nevada County servicing all fire agencies and communities with its specialized capabilities. A ladder truck differs from a fire engine most notably by the 100 ft ladder on top of the vehicle essential for accessing multi story occupancies for fire and rescue emergencies, providing elevated water streams, and providing tools and equipment for complex incidents as seen at the Everhart Fire in 2024. Ladder Trucks generally have a 20 year service history with some used in a reserve status once being removed from front line service. In 2010 the city, through a series of grants, a bequest, and impact fees, purchased a ladder truck due to the limited capability of the previous ladder truck and its excessive maintenance history. This new truck was manufactured in 2009 as a demonstration model that toured the Country prior to our purchase. The truck has serviced the City well although its operational window and maintenance issues have shown the need for increased performance now available through technology and manufacturing advancements.

In 2023 staff request approval to enter into a contract with Fire Apparatus Solutions, the KME authorized dealer for California, for one new ladder truck in the amount of \$2,151,138.36. At time of request current build times for fire apparatus, including a new truck, were estimated at a minimum of 3 years for delivery. Additionally, entering into that contract saved the city a known cost increase of \$106,897 on December 1<sup>st</sup> as well annual increases over the course of the agreement. The new ladder truck, assuming a 3 year build, would be delivered when the current truck is 16 years in service and 17 years on the road.

The City has been presented with a unique opportunity to acquire a fire apparatus through Pierce Manufacturing's Dealer Allocated Stock Slot (DAS) program. Since the signing of our previous contract with KME, this opportunity provides the potential to enhance operational efficiency and realize cost savings while meeting our agency's specific needs.

#### **Key Advantages of the Pierce DAS Program:**

1. **Reduced Delivery Time:** The proposed Pierce 107' Ascendant Aerial Ladder Truck has an estimated build time of 11 to 13 months from the contract date, significantly shorter than the delivery timeline for the contracted KME vehicle.
2. **Cost Savings:** The truck is priced at \$2,025,467.65, representing a savings of \$125,607.71 compared to the current KME contract.
3. **Enhanced Features:** The DAS truck is equipped with all-wheel steering, providing superior maneuverability and agility with an improved turning radius—an invaluable feature for urban and complex emergency operations.
4. **Simplified Configuration:** While the DAS program provides a stock vehicle with limited customization options, staff has reviewed the specifications and confirmed that the vehicle meets the operational needs of the City.

Staff seeks approval to:

- Enter into a contract with Pierce Manufacturing for the 107' Ascendant Aerial Ladder Truck under the DAS program.
- Collaborate with the City Attorney to seek relief from the existing KME contract prior to signing with Pierce.

This program operates on a first-come, first-served basis, and the contract must be finalized by April 30, 2025, to secure the opportunity.

We believe this acquisition will enhance the Fire Department's response capabilities while achieving fiscal efficiency. Your approval of this request is respectfully recommended.

#### **Financial Summary:**

- **Pierce DAS Program Cost:** \$2,025,467.65
- **Current KME Contract Cost:** \$2,151,138.36
- **Savings:** \$125,607.71

Upon arrival of the new truck, the old truck will be sold with proceeds returned to fund balance.

**Council Goals/Objectives:** Exceptional Public Safety consistent with the City of Grass Valley Strategic Plan

**Fiscal Impact:** The Ladder Truck purchase will be funded with Measure E funding which has been forecasted for expenditure / appropriation in FY 2025-26; and available fund balances expected to accrue over the next three years.

**Funds Available:** Yes- Future year funding

**Account #:** 200-203-52050

**Reviewed by:**

**Attachments:** Pierce Proposal