

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: August 11, 2026

To: Village President and Board of Trustees

Through: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

From: Bob Grabowski, Fire Chief

Topic: Purchase Contract – 2028-2029 Horton Ambulance

PURPOSE

Staff is requesting that the Village Board approve an ordinance waiving competitive bidding requirements and a purchase agreement to acquire one (1) Horton ambulance from Foster Coach Sales Inc. of Sterling, IL in the amount of \$405,817.

PROCESS

In 2009, the Fire Department implemented a vehicle replacement schedule, which has been followed with only minor adjustments over the years. In this schedule, the Fire Department has three (3) ambulances that are currently on a four-year cycle for replacement. The current fleet consists of a 2015, 2019, and 2024 Horton ambulance. When an ambulance is purchased, it spends its first four years as the front line #1 ambulance, its next four years as the #2 in service ambulance, and then it spends its final four years as the #3 reserve ambulance, for a total life of twelve years.

Similar to the 2025 purchase of our next fire engine, ambulance companies are taking approximately three years to build and deliver ambulances when it was previously eighteen (18) months or less. With this new reality, it has become necessary to approve contracts three years from delivery so the Village can hold costs at today's pricing and not 2029 prices. The Village received a purchase agreement of \$405,817 through the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC), a government joint purchasing program, for a Horton 2028-2029 Ford F550 ambulance from Foster Coach Sales Inc. of Sterling, IL, the sales representative for Horton ambulance.

Pre-Purchase/Future Delivery

Section 11-61-3 of the Illinois Municipal Code authorizes municipalities with populations of less than 1,000,000 to purchase personal property for public purposes by making installment payment(s) for a period of time less than 20 years. The purchase agreement provided by the vendor calls for a single installment payment of \$405,817 upon delivery of the engine in **2029**.

At this time, staff anticipates that future bond proceeds will be used to fund the purchase in 2029; however, an alternative funding source, such as a lease program, may be identified.

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OUTCOME

Purchasing the ambulance now will secure the 2026 pricing, avoiding potential price increases. This proactive approach will also ensure timely delivery of the ambulance while meeting the desired specifications.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** Anticipated use of future Bond Proceeds
- **Budgeted Amount:** Will be budgeted in future fiscal year
- **Cost:** \$405,817

LEGAL REVIEW

Completed

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Pass an ordinance waiving competitive bid requirements due to standardization of equipment; and, approving a purchase agreement for one (1) Horton Ambulance in the amount of \$405,817 through the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC), to be delivered no later than 2029.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- Ordinance
- Purchase Agreement