

TOWN OF JEROME

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT

To: The Honorable Mayor and Council

From: Jerome Fire Department

Date: 08/31/2025

Meeting Date: 09/09/2025

TITLE: Command Vehicle Grant

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Sign a Formal Letter of Resolution

ACTION SUMMARY:

Requesting the council to sign a Formal letter of Resolution stating that the funds received will be used for purpose requested.

DISCUSSION:

Assistant Chief Carl Whiting has been using his personal vehicle for Jerome Fire Department business for several years. He was told by Chief Blair that if he wanted to get a company vehicle, he would have to find the funding. Asst. Chief Whiting applied for a grant from the Gila River Indian Community. The grant is being considered.

A command vehicle for Asst. Chief Whiting will allow him to respond to emergencies in a timelier manner with the use of emergency lights and a siren. Asst. Chief Whiting will also be able to use this vehicle for out-of-state wildland assignments generating revenue for the town. Asst. Chief Whiting is currently using his personal vehicle.

Background/History:

Asst. Chief Whiting was using a donated Suburban for a short time. This vehicle has over 300,000 miles on it. The vehicle started having mechanical issues and was very large and not good to use on the narrow and tight roads in town. This vehicle was parked, and it was determined that repairing it was not financially viable.

There are two other department vehicles, both are close to 30 years old with over 250,000 miles. Both vehicles are not reliable to take any further than Cottonwood and are consistently needing work.

Key Considerations:

A new or newer vehicle will allow Asst. Chief Whiting the ability to safely respond to emergency incidents as well as showing pride in our town and the fire department.

Community Benefits and Considerations:

A new command vehicle will bring in a reliable vehicle to the fire department.

Community Involvement:

None

Financial Implications:

Minimal to the town budget. The cost to the town will be tax and licensing for the vehicle. The fire Department will find other sources of funding if needed to cover the cost of the vehicle.

With the fire department having two unusable vehicles in the town yard that can be sold or auctioned there is potential for additional funding.

Options and Alternatives:

Continue relying on donated vehicles that are not reliable and constantly in need of repair, or the use of personal vehicles.

Attachments/Exhibits:

See attached application and emails

Town Manager (*Acknowledgment that all reviews have been completed and required approvals initialed below.*)

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DATE OF COUNCIL APPROVAL:
