

**RESOLUTION TO  
APPROVE LADDER TRUCK CAPITAL PURCHASE COMMITMENTS  
WITH LONG LEAD ORDERING REQUIREMENTS**

**SPONSOR: MAYOR MCFARLAND  
FROM: FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Watertown Fire Department's current ladder truck has been in service since 2007 and is scheduled for replacement in 2027; and

**WHEREAS**, the ladder truck is a critical piece of firefighting equipment necessary for fire suppression, elevated rescue operations, firefighter safety and mutual aid responsibilities, particularly for multi-story buildings, industrial facilities and large residential structures; and

**WHEREAS**, the current ladder truck is experiencing increased service costs, difficulties in procuring replacement parts and an increased risk of mechanical failure due to its age and operational demands; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fire department has conducted a comprehensive assessment of replacement options, including evaluating manufactures, service capabilities and cost-effectiveness, ultimately selecting Emergency One as the preferred vendor; and

**WHEREAS**, the current industry-wide manufacturing lead time for fire apparatus is approximately 50 months, making it necessary to secure a production slot now to ensure timely replacement; and

**WHEREAS**, no delivery of the ladder truck will be prior to 2027;

**WHEREAS**, the estimated total cost of the replacement ladder truck, including expanded warranty coverage and necessary outfitting equipment, shall not exceed \$2,600,000; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no financial commitment required at the time of ordering, and payment will not be due until the vehicle is delivered, allowing the city to budget accordingly; and

**WHEREAS**, delaying the order could result in increased costs due to material shortages, labor costs and supply chain constraints, potentially impacting the departments operational readiness and fiscal planning;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERTOWN, WISCONSIN:** that authorization be provided to Fire Chief to initiate commitments for the capital asset ordering for an e-one ladder truck with a final contract, timeline and cost to be presented as soon as it is obtained. It shall be a condition of the commitments that no payments are to be made prior to 2027 and the City retains the ability to cancel the order for no cost prior to making a down payment on the item.

Acct #	Dept	Item	Approx Cost
05-52-31-70	Fire	Ladder Truck	2,600,000

	YES	NO
DAVIS		
LAMPE		
BOARD		
BARTZ		
BLANKE		
SMITH		
SCHMID		
WETZEL		
MOLDENHAUER		
MAYOR MCFARLAND		
TOTAL		

ADOPTED March 18, 2025

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CITY CLERK

APPROVED March 18, 2025

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MAYOR