



STAFF REPORT

Public Hearing 3-19-24

AGENDA ITEM #: 24-19
COUNCIL MTG OF: March 05, 2024
FROM: Dave Caron, Town Administrator
OFFERED BY: Shawn Haggart, Fire Chief
PREPARED BY: Greg Laro, Battalion Chief
SUBJECT: Assistance to Firefighters Grant Request – Hydraulic Rescue Equipment

PURPOSE:

To acquire battery powered hydraulic rescue tools to enhance emergency response capabilities for the Fire Department. A public hearing is required and can be scheduled for March 19, 2024.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

The Fire Department is requesting permission to apply for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The amount of this grant request is approximately \$156,535 with a 10% cost share. The Town's cost share would be funded through the capital improvement fund. If awarded, this grant funding would support the purchase of four (4) hydraulic cutters, four (4) hydraulic spreaders, two (2) hydraulic ram kits, and one (hydraulic combination spreader/cutter tool.

BACKGROUND:

Hydraulic rescue tools are a critical piece of equipment used, among other things, to extricate patients from vehicles or heavy equipment, when other means of extrication is not possible. Currently, the fleet of Derry Fire Department apparatus are equipped with hydraulic rescue tools, powered by a small gasoline engine/hydraulic pump power unit, which supplies the tools with hydraulic pressure via a pair of high-pressure hoses. The hydraulic rescue tools the Department owns vary from 10 to 30 plus years old with 65% of the tools being over 20 years old. While these are still functional, they do not offer the performance, capabilities, ease of operation, or portability that battery powered hydraulic rescue tools do. The Department operates five (5) hydraulic power units, six (6) hydraulic spreaders, six (6) hydraulic cutters, and four (4) hydraulic rams on the front line and reserve apparatus.

DISCUSSION:

The current cache of hydraulic rescue tools is cumbersome to deploy when needed in an area that is beyond the reach of the hoses that supply them with pressure. In these situations, the power unit, tools, and hoses must be carried, by Fire Department personnel, to the required area of operation before rescue operations can begin. Once there, these tools remain tethered to their power unit by the hydraulic lines. Additionally, these power units rely on gasoline engines, which need regular maintenance and are susceptible to problems related to gasoline additives, fuel sitting for prolonged periods, and operator error. Unlike the gasoline powered hydraulic tools above, battery powered hydraulic tools provide the motor, fluid reservoir, and tool in a single unit that is comparable in weight to the gasoline powered versions. These tools remain fully charged and ready to be used via an onboard charging system on the fire apparatus. One person can rapidly deploy one of these tools to wherever they are needed and operate it independent of any other hydraulic rescue tools that are being used. If

awarded, the AFG Grant would facilitate the purchase of the following battery powered hydraulic rescue tools; four (4) hydraulic cutters, four (4) hydraulic spreaders, two (2) hydraulic ram kits, and one (1) hydraulic combination spreader/cutter tool.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Soft (in-kind) matches are not allowed with AFG. The capital improvement fund would be used to support this expenditure and there would be no impact on the operating budget.

RECOMMENDED ACTION BY COUNCIL:

Allow the Town Administrator, on behalf of the Fire Department, to apply for the AFG for the purchase of eleven (11) hydraulic rescue tools, as outlined above, and associated equipment.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Please see Resolution #2024-014, after the March 19, 2024 public hearing.



RESOLUTION

Number 2024-014

To Apply for and Accept Grant Funding to Acquire Hydraulic Rescue
Equipment for the Fire Department

WHEREAS, the Section 9.15 of the Town Charter authorizes the Town Council to apply for, accept and expend funds received from the State and Federal Governments; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department seeks to obtain hydraulic rescue equipment to enhance emergency response capabilities; and

WHEREAS, a grant opportunity may provide 90% of the funding for this program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED IN COUNCIL that the Town Administrator is hereby authorized to sign Grant Applications and Agreements with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for up to \$156,535 in project funding to purchase hydraulic rescue equipment; further,

UPON successful receipt of the grant, as Agents to Expend, authorize the transfer of up to \$15,654 from the Fire Department Capital Reserve fund to provide the 10% local match.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Adopted: March 19, 2024

Attest:

X _____

Charles Foote, Council Chair

Date: _____

X _____

Cristina Guilford, Town Clerk

Date: _____