

Battle Creek Fire Department



From the Desk of Dave Schmaltz, Fire Chief

TO: Nils Vos, Senior Buyer
DATE: December 22, 2016
RE: Purchase of a New Ladder Truck

Nils,

As you know we had to remove our front line and reserve ladders from service in mid-October. They both experienced cracked frames and it was determined that it wasn't cost effective to repair due to the age of the vehicles as well as the cost of the repair. Since then we have been working diligently to determine a course of action to replace these vehicles because we no longer have a 100' ladder which is imperative for our city and relying on mutual aid for an extended period of time just wasn't what we wanted to do to our neighbors.

We looked at building a new vehicle, but it was determined that it would take between 12 to 18 months for completion and the cost would certainly run over a million dollars. We were heading down that path until we came across a stock ladder truck. The price was under a million, it was 100' long and had a platform on the front. Everything about this truck is what we needed and we wouldn't have to wait for over a year to get it.

A few other things as to why I am requesting that we buy this truck as an emergency purchase is that it has the same cab and chassis as our last two engines as well as the same pump. This will reduce the amount of time it will take to train our personnel because it will drive and operate the same. It will also help the mechanics when doing maintenance because in essence they will be working on the same type of vehicles.

The price for this vehicle is coming in at \$978,000. In comparison to other stock ladder trucks it is right in line. The difference is that with the other trucks we would still need to add a few option like a foam system and the would increase the cost. For example, I looked at an E-One 100' platform and the base price for their stock unit was \$973,000, but with the additions that we would need would have pushed that price to \$993,000. Also, by going with a different manufacturer we would create different challenges operationally.

I believe that this is the best option for us to get a ladder truck back in service in timely manner. Please use the following GL string: 409.13.4391.972.020. If you need anything else, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you,

Dave Schmaltz
Fire Chief