



TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT STAFF REPORT

Board Meeting Date: October 6, 2020

DATE: September 22, 2020
TO: Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners
FROM: August Isernhagen, Division Chief
THROUGH: Charles A. Moore, Fire Chief
Phone: (775) 328-6123 Email: cmoore@tmfpd.us
SUBJECT: Recommend authorizing the payment of up-front expenses in a total amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the purchase of two (2) Type V fire apparatus from US Fire Equipment in accordance with bid ITB 3132 and two (2) "Chipper Dump Trucks" with vendor to be determined. These upfront costs will be reimbursed under the Hazardous Fuels Management and Standby Services Agreement with NV Energy or Nevada Division of Forestry Grant for fire suppression work. (All Commission Districts) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Recommend authorizing the payment of up-front expenses in a total amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the purchase of two (2) Type V fire apparatus from US Fire Equipment in accordance with bid ITB 3132 and two (2) "Chipper Dump Trucks" with vendor to be determined. These upfront costs will be reimbursed under the Hazardous Fuels Management and Standby Services Agreement with NV Energy or Nevada Division of Forestry Grant for fire suppression work.

Type V fire apparatus from the vendor US Fire Equipment have previously been purchased with a cost not to exceed \$175,000 per apparatus. Chipper Dump Trucks have not been purchased but quotes are being obtained. It is anticipated that cost will remain under \$100,000 per truck.

PREVIOUS ACTION

December 17, 2019, the Board approved the position of Division Chief of Fuels and Wildfire to oversee the Fuels Reduction Program.

February 25, 2020, the Board approved the issuance of new bond financing for the purpose of acquiring new fire apparatus. The financing was intended to purchase five (5) new Type I fire apparatus and three (3) new Type V fire apparatus.

March 17, 2020, the Board approved the award of a competitive bid for the purchase of three (3) Type V fire apparatus. That bid allowed for additional joinders and purchases through May 2023.

April 28, 2020, the Board approved a 3-year contract between the District and NV Energy for the purpose of eliminating fire hazards. This agreement pays the District on a “time and materials basis” for fuels reduction services. The contract includes payment for the annual costs for the first squad of the Fuels Reduction Program and needed equipment. The contract provided that, as additional projects were identified, additional squads and equipment could be added. All the costs associated with completing the work on the NV Energy projects will be paid by NV Energy.

June 16, 2020, the Board approved the payment of up-front expenses in a total amount of \$249,200 for the purchase of 1 Type V Engine, which was needed to perform the hazardous fuels reduction under the contract with NV Energy. The purchase amount is to be reimbursed by NV Energy pursuant to the above-referenced contract

July 21, 2020, the Board approved new positions to add a second squad to the Fuels Reduction Program, specifically 1 Crew Boss, 1 Heavy Equipment Operator, 1 Squad Boss, and 4 Crew Members.

September 1, 2020, the Board approved five positions in order to add a third squad to the Fuels Reduction Program for a total personnel 18 positions in the Program.

October 6, 2020 (current meeting), staff is seeking authorization to acceptance of a grant in an amount not to exceed \$1.2 million dollars from the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) for the purpose of increasing fire suppression work in accordance with NRS 474.580 and authorization for Fire Chief to execute necessary documents. The grant will be used to expand the fire suppression work TMFPD performs with NV Energy by increasing personnel and equipment. The equipment and personnel will also be used to assist with TMFPD’s firefighting mission

BACKGROUND

Statutory Authority: NRS 474.500 authorizes a district fire chief to coordinate fire protection activities within the District. NRS 474.580 requires control and elimination of fire hazards on private property. The District is authorized to remove the hazard and charge the landowner for the performance of that work.

Necessity and Benefits of Fuels Reduction Program: Prior to its consolidation with TMFPD, the Sierra Fire Protection District managed a 20+ person hand crew squad that conducted fuels management projects, including wildfire hand crew work. That program was tremendously successful and operated largely off grant funds. TMFPD is developing a similar, but more robust, Fuels Reduction Program to address the fire hazards within the wildland-urban interface that surround most of the District.

Government - Private Partnership to Reduce Fuel Hazards: In the Fall of 2019, NV Energy began working with the State of Nevada and local government fire agencies to develop a program to reduce the risk of fires related to NV Energy’s electrical infrastructure, such as removal of vegetation around power poles and within their easements as required by NRS 474.580. A long-term plan was established to identify areas of highest fire risk and prioritize elimination of fire hazards.

On April 28, 2020, the Board approved a 3-year contract between the District and NV Energy for the purpose of implementing the above-referenced plan by eliminating fire hazards by using the hand crews of the District’s Fuels Reduction Program. The contract included payment for the annual costs for the

first fuels management squad and equipment. The contract contemplated that, as additional projects were identified, additional squads and equipment could be added. All costs associated with personnel and equipment completing the work on the NV Energy projects will be paid by NV Energy. On July 21, 2020, the Board authorized positions for a second squad under this contract.

During the 80th Special Session, the Nevada Legislature allocated \$5 million in funds for pre-fire suppression work across the State. Subsequently, NV Energy partnered with and provided \$5 million in matching funds to NDF, creating a fund of \$10 million for pre-fire suppression work. NDF has agreed to provide a grant not to exceed \$1.2 million to TMFPD. The grant will be used to expand the fire suppression work TMFPD performs under NV Energy contract by increasing personnel and equipment. The equipment and personnel will also be used to assist with TMFPD's firefighting mission.

Request Authorization for Payment of Up-Front Expenses for Equipment that will be Reimbursed.

The District is seeking authorization for the payment of up-front expenses in a total amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the purchase of two (2) Type V fire apparatus from US Fire Equipment in accordance with bid ITB 3132 and two (2) "Chipper Dump Trucks" with vendor to be determined. These upfront costs will be reimbursed under the Hazardous Fuels Management NV Energy or Nevada Division of Forestry Grant for fire suppression work.

The District fleet currently consists of nearly 50 fire apparatus and an additional 100 other vehicles (light duty, trailers, etc.). In previous years, the District has adopted an apparatus replacement schedule of 10 years front-line status for Type I apparatus and 15 years for front-line Type III/V apparatus. Following these periods, apparatus is moved to reserve status for a period of an additional 10 years. Under this replacement schedule, the District has incrementally purchased 1-3 apparatus per year to maintain an operational and adequate fleet. The fleet has ongoing apparatus specification development, build inspections, in-servicing, and equipment use and maintenance training.

As District service requirements continue to grow, the prior fleet replacement schedule must be updated. The District is proposing a "bulk purchase" program where apparatus needed to maintain this schedule are procured in larger quantities, every three to five years. This has the advantage of consolidated procurement includes bulk purchase pricing discounts, identical apparatus for consolidated maintenance, no additional training for operations and maintenance.

At the January 22, 2020 Fire Board meeting the District approved the purchase of the five (5) new Type I apparatus. In accordance with NRS 332, (a solicitation for the purchase of the remaining three (3) Type V apparatus was required. Washoe County Purchasing released ITB 3132 on February 18, 2020 with bid opening occurring March 17, 2020, for possible Intent to Award of contract.

Currently the District has purchased 1 Type V Engine under the NV Energy Contract. The District has received an increase in the purchase order from NV Energy for fuels and wildland firefighting work. With this increase, funding for a second Type V Engine to support the second Fuels Squad, and funding for two "Chipper Dump Trucks" to support the Fuels Program was included. Funding for a third Type V Engine to support the third Fuels Squad (currently in hiring process) is included in the proposed "NDF/NV" Energy sub-grant.

Previous Type V Engines were quoted at \$165,000. The current Chipper Dump Truck quote is less than \$100,000 each.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total estimated cost is not to exceed \$550,000. All costs will be reimbursed through the NV Energy Agreement or NDF subgrant. The District will present a budget augmentation to the Board of Fire Commissioners at a future date for a public hearing.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend authorizing the payment of up-front expenses in a total amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the purchase of two (2) Type V fire apparatus from US Fire Equipment in accordance with bid ITB 3132 and two (2) “Chipper Dump Trucks” with vendor to be determined. These upfront costs will be reimbursed under the Hazardous Fuels Management and Standby Services Agreement with NV Energy or Nevada Division of Forestry Grant for fire suppression work.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion could be:

“I move authorize the payment of up-front expenses in a total amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the purchase of two (2) Type V fire apparatus from US Fire Equipment in accordance with bid ITB 3132 and two (2) “Chipper Dump Trucks” with vendor to be determined. These upfront costs will be reimbursed under the Hazardous Fuels Management and Standby Services Agreement with NV Energy or Nevada Division of Forestry Grant for fire suppression work.