

# CITY OF TORRANCE INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

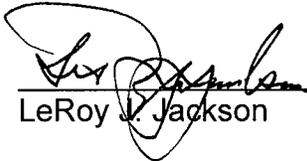
DATE: May 8, 2012

TO: Mayor and Members of City Council

FROM: LeRoy J. Jackson, City Manager

SUBJECT: Additional Information regarding the Council Meeting of May 8, 2012

Attached are responses to questions that have arisen regarding Council Agenda **Item 8B** on this evening's agenda.



LeRoy J. Jackson

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cc: City Clerk  
Attachment: Questions and Responses

**MAY 8, 2012 – COUNCIL ITEM 8B – Fire and General Services Departments**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRE CHIEF AND GENERAL SERVICES DIRECTOR TO AUTHORIZE A PURCHASE ORDER TO PIERCE MANUFACTURING COMPANY FOR A NEW AERIAL LADDER TRUCK.**

**Q. What is the cost of a pre-plumbed waterway to supply an elevated fire stream for the aerial ladder truck? What is the service lifetime expected from the new ladder truck? Are there any operational concerns from having/not having the pre-plumbed waterway feature installed on the new ladder truck? (Councilman Sutherland)**

A. The price for the pre-plumbed waterway is approximately \$40,000. The reason it is not being installed on this new ladder truck is Fire Staff were trying to keep the cost of the purchase affordable and of least impact on the City's budget.

Lifespan of a ladder truck: 25 years. 15 years as a front-line apparatus, 10 as a reserve, although the current reserve ladder truck will be 31 years old by the time we receive this latest purchase.

Operational concerns:

Safety: The ladder trucks are used for far more other types of aerial ladder applications than provide elevated streams. The presence of a waterway necessitates placing the ladder approximately 2-3 feet further away from a roof/parapet than one without a waterway. This can be problematic for those firefighters going to the roof during operations as they will need to step an additional distance to the roof.

The apparatus committee considered this item in their decision and chose the enhanced safety of our personnel over the time savings that having a pre-plumbed waterway would achieve.

During a ladder pipe (elevated fire stream) application, the decision has been made to "write-off" the fire building, or the fire intensity makes it prohibitive to enter. Operations are then concentrated on protecting/saving any adjacent buildings surrounding the fire.

Pre-plumbed waterways are more of an East Coast feature and work well for them as their cities tend to have more high rise/taller buildings, which require elevated streams to address those stories involved in fire. On the West Coast, with exceptions, we generally have more "horizontal" low-rise types of buildings.

Torrance's need for aerial ladder apparatus is dependent on gaining roof access to multi story structures, large commercial structures as well as to various low/ high rise occupancies. The incidents where we utilize the aerial ladder as a ladder outweighs the times we use an elevated stream. Therefore, it makes sense to design a ladder truck which will give us more flexibility, access to structures, and increased firefighter safety.

*(William Racowschi, Fire Chief)*