

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the Torrance City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Fire Department – Disposition of two retired surplus fire engines (units #118 and #119). Expenditure: Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION

The Fire Chief recommends that the City Council approve the attached Resolution authorizing title transfer of retired surplus fire engines to the Big Canyon Fire District, Peck, Idaho (Unit #118, License # E767808, VIN F1849) and Beaver Fire District #1, Beaver, Utah (Unit #119, License # E767809, VIN F1850). One fire engine will be donated to each of the two agencies.

BACKGROUND/ ANALYSIS

In February 2006, Council authorized the purchase of two replacement fire engines from Seagrave Fire Apparatus, LLC in the amount not to exceed \$884,550.80. The new Seagrave fire engines were put into service; they replaced two front-line engines – a 1994 and a 1996 Seagrave Triple Combination Pumpers, which were put into reserve service. The 1994 and 1996 Seagrave engines replaced the two reserve 1981 Crown engines. The Crown engines are 26 years old and have met and exceeded the Fire Department's current service policy of 12 years in front-line service and 5 years in reserve service. Their maintenance has become prohibitively expensive. Repair parts are difficult to find and have to be custom-made as Crown has been out of business for many years.

The Fire Department received letters requesting the donation of a retired surplus fire engine from the following agencies: West Torrance Lion's Club; Rim of the World High School/ Fire Technology Program, Lake Arrowhead, California; Big Canyon Fire District, Peck, Idaho; Cabo San Lucas Volunteer Fire Department, Mexico; and Beaver Fire District #1, Beaver, Utah. The last two agencies have received already a fire engine from Torrance. In 2004, Council approved the donation of three retired surplus fire engines to Beaver Fire District #1, Beaver, Utah; Cabo San Lucas Fire Department, Mexico; and El Camino Community College District. Two of the engines were 1973 and one - 1978 Crown Triple Combination Pumpers.

Staff estimates the value of the fire engines to be in the range of \$4,000 to \$7,000 each. However, this is just an estimate; we do not know what the actual demand is for older fire apparatus. If the two engines are sold, the proceeds will go back to the Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund.

The following options were considered in the analysis of the disposition of the two fire engines: 1) Donate one fire engine to each of the two United States fire departments; 2) Donate to Cabo San Lucas Fire Department, Mexico; 3) Donate to Rim of the World High School/ Fire Technology Program, Lake Arrowhead, California; and 4) Sale of the fire engines. The options

are listed in order of their importance based on the guiding criteria that: first, the fire engines will continue to be used as fire apparatus to fight fires; second, they will be donated to another municipality within the United States; third, to a fire department outside the United States; fourth, they will be used for training; and fifth, attempt to sell the engines, with uncertainty of the value and the demand. Using these criteria, the Fire Chief recommends that Council approve option 1 and donate the two fire engines to Big Canyon Fire District and Beaver Fire District #1. These are volunteer US fire departments, which will use the fire engines for emergency response.

Should Council approve the attached resolution authorizing transfer of title, the following would apply for Big Canyon Fire District, Peck, Idaho and Beaver Fire District #1, Beaver, Utah:

- 1) They would accept the units "as is, where is."
- 2) They would accept responsibility for removal of the units from the City of Torrance.
- 3) They would provide an appropriate "hold harmless" to the City of Torrance for any liability arising out of use of this equipment.

According to SECTION 21.2.3. METHODS OF DISPOSITION OF OBSOLETE PERSONAL PROPERTY of the Torrance Municipal Code:

- g) Transfer to a Public Agency or a Charitable, Civic or Non-profit Organization. The City Council may authorize the sale, lease or donation of Obsolete Personal Property to the federal government or one of its agencies; to the State of California; to any county, city, school district, special district; other governmental agency; or to any charitable, civic or non-profit organization. The price and terms of transfer must be established by the City Council, but may be made without advertisement for or receipt of bids.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD V. BONGARD
Fire Chief


By Neli Mileva
Administrative Analyst

CONCUR:


Richard V. Bongard
Fire Chief


LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

- Attachments: A. Resolution
B. Letters from Big Canyon Volunteer Fire District and Beaver Fire District #1.

RESOLUTION NO. _____**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING
THE TITLE TRANSFER OF TWO RETIRED SURPLUS FIRE ENGINES
TO THE BIG CANYON FIRE DISTRICT, PECK, IDAHO AND BEAVER FIRE
DISTRICT #1, BEAVER, UTAH**

WHEREAS, the City of Torrance has an interest in promoting volunteerism, and assisting those who depend upon donations of equipment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Torrance holds title to retired surplus 1981 Crown Triple Combination Pumper (Unit #118, License # E767808, VIN F1849) and 1981 Crown Triple Combination Pumper (Unit #119, License # E767809, VIN F1850); and

WHEREAS, the Big Canyon Fire District, Peck, Idaho and Beaver Fire District #1, Beaver, Utah depend upon donations from fire service agencies and have expressed interest in and made a request for the donation of a fire engine to be used for emergency response; and

WHEREAS, the City has no need for the two fire engines, which are 26 years old; and

WHEREAS, the two agencies agree to accept these fire engines – each agency will accept one engine - taking full responsibility for transfer and all liability.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Torrance authorizes the title transfer of retired surplus:

- 1981 Crown Triple Combination Pumper (Unit #118, License # E767808, VIN F1849) from the City of Torrance to the volunteer fire department Big Canyon Fire District, Peck, Idaho for the purpose of emergency response; and
- 1981 Crown Triple Combination Pumper (Unit #119, License # E767809, VIN F1850) from the City of Torrance to the volunteer fire department, Beaver Fire District #1, Beaver, Utah for the purpose of emergency response.

INTRODUCED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 20th day of November, 2007.

Frank Scotto
Mayor of the City of Torrance

ATTEST:

Sue Herbers
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JOHN L. FELLOWS III
City Attorney

By _____
Ronald T. Pohl
Assistant City Attorney

**RECEIVED**

JAN 30 2007

TORRANCE FIRE DEPT.

January 25, 2007

Chief Rich Bongard
Torrance Fire Department
1701 Crenshaw Blvd.
Torrance, California 90501

Dear Chief Bongard and City Council Members

RE: Surplus Engine-Pumper
Lost Request Letter

Thank you for your continued consideration of your surplus engine for the Big Canyon Fire District. I am not sure what happened to our previously sent request letter but we are still very much interested.

The all volunteer firefighter Big Canyon Fire District covers over 32 square miles in North Central Idaho, plus several subscribers outside our district. We fight both structure and wildland fires. Unfortunately, my firemen are constantly forced to train and work with substandard and out-dated equipment. Your engine will be a valuable asset to our community and we will be forever grateful to the City of Torrance for helping our fire department, firefighters and those we serve.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James K. O'Connell
Assistant Fire Chief

Beaver Fire District # 1

1110 north main
P.O. Box 566
Beaver, Utah 84713

Torrance Fire Department
1701 Crenshaw Blvd.
Torrance, California 90501

November 25, 2006

Dear Chief Bongard and Torrance City Counsel:

On behalf of the Beaver Fire District # 1, I would like to thank your city for all the support your Fire Department has given us over the years. Your donations to our department have made it possible for us to provide better Fire protection to our community and safety to our Firefighters.

Recently we spoke to Dick DeArmitt and he informed us that there are two Engines that might be available.

At this time we would like to request the requisition of one of these Engines.

We are a small Volunteer department with a very small budget. Our first priority is Firefighter safety and equipment maintenance so that does not leave a lot for purchasing trucks.

This year we are starting a firefighter apprentice program with our school district. We will give juniors in high school the opportunity to take Firefighter 1, 2 and Hazmat operations training. Then we will encourage them to take Fire Science in collage and pursue a career in firefighting. This will take some funding. We plan on using training funds and grants when available. Maybe they will test in your city some day.

The last Engine we received is our first out apparatus in our north station, we have taken very good care of it and always let the people in our community know of your donation to ours. We are in need of an engine to run out of our north station to respond to freeway and second out calls for fire and medical in the north end of are district. Our response area is 600 sq. miles and we need this truck to insure that when we are out on the freeway or on another call that there is still an engine available for first due calls. We are proud to have a retired Torrance Firefighter live here (Richard DeArmitt) and all that your Fire Department and City have done for us.

Sincerely,
George Humphreys

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chiefbfd1@infowest.com

Chief Beaver Fire District

E-mail

Mileva, Neli

From: Strader, Tatia
Sent: Thursday, November 08, 2007 2:39 PM
To: Mileva, Neli
Subject: RE: Approve Resolution for title transfer of two retired surplus fire engines

approved as to form, I will send you a gold routing sheet back along with the hard copies, please fill out the gold routing sheet as appropriate. Thanks, Tatia

-----Original Message-----

From: Mileva, Neli
Sent: Thursday, November 08, 2007 11:04 AM
To: Work Request Desk
Cc: Strader, Tatia
Subject: FW: Approve Resolution for title transfer of two retired surplus fire engines

Here are the corrected documents (Fleet changed the VIN # of one of the vehicles). Thank you. Neli

-----Original Message-----

From: Mileva, Neli
Sent: Thursday, November 08, 2007 10:22 AM
To: Work Request Desk
Cc: Bongard, Rick; Dumais, Dave; Racowschi, William
Subject: Approve Resolution for title transfer of two retired surplus fire engines

Hello,

Please approve the attached resolution. I also attached the agenda item to give you some background. We plan to go to Council on November 20, 2007. Sorry for the short notice. We will appreciate any effort to approve this item by Tuesday, November 13 (if possible before noon). When Council approves the item, we will ask the recipients fire departments to send us a letter including the following "hold harmless" verbiage. Please also approve this:

"The _____ Fire Department shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City of Torrance, its agents, officers, and employees, from and against any and all liability, expense, including defense costs and reasonable legal fees, and claims for damages of any nature whatsoever, including but not limited to bodily injury, death, personal injury, or property damage, arising from or connected with the donated fire engine."

Thank you,

Neli