



MEMORANDUM

TO: Timothy J. Baroody, City Manager
FROM: Donna Leahy, Budget Analyst
SUBJECT: Amending the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget for the Purchase of Public Safety Equipment
ORIGINAL: January 17, 2023 (for the January 24, 2023 Council Meeting)
REVISED: January 25, 2023 (for the February 14, 2023 Council Meeting)

ISSUE

Shall the City Council appropriate funds in the General Fund and Public Safety Capital Fund for the purchase of an ambulance for the Fire Department?

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends this amendment.

{Revision for the February 14, 2023 City Council Meeting: City Council adopted the adopted resolution on first reading on January 24, 2023. Staff recommends approval on second reading.}

DISCUSSION

The Fredericksburg Fire Department maintains an up-to-date and modern emergency vehicle fleet that ensures adequate staffed and available units to respond to all emergency situations. At the heart of that is the fleet of ambulances. These Emergency Medical Services [EMS] vehicles are designed to respond and transport those who are sick or injured to the local hospital. The vehicles must be reliable, affordable, and meet certain federal, state and local standards in order to function properly and meet the Department's mission and vision statements.

The current apparatus replacement program is designed to replace ambulances every 10 years. This requirement takes into consideration the age, mileage, wear and tear, and technology changes that have occurred in the EMS field over the last 15-20 years. The current unit to be replaced is a 2015 ambulance that is on a Chevrolet van front chassis. These chassis, while affordable and providing outstanding ride qualities, do not have the ability to stand up to the wear and tear of responses over the City street network. The brakes, rotors, tie rods and other chassis components are often replaced due to repeated use over several years. Also, the gross vehicle weight barely meets the minimum requirements for payload as necessitated by Office of EMS Regulations. With little to no reserve weight ability after our EMS equipment is added, the vehicle is left operating at full weight capacity whether in transit or sitting still. This causes additional stress on the running gear components of the chassis.

With the current reserve at the end of its life expectancy, it is necessary to replace the unit. It was scheduled to be replaced during the FY 2024 fiscal year. Unfortunately, the ambulance and fire apparatus industry has seen unprecedented growth in orders over the past three years and this, coupled with a lack of available manpower and supply chain delays for components, has caused major delays in the ambulance manufacturer's ability to deliver product in a timely fashion. A recent check of three major suppliers of finished ambulances found deliveries running anywhere from 24-36 months after receipt of the order at the manufacturer. In order to stay on schedule with updating the fleet, it has become necessary to place the order for a new unit now rather than waiting 6-8 months to place an order. With the current delivery times, if we place the order now we will probably not receive the new ambulance until FY 2025. If we wait, it may be well into FY 2026 to receive the unit, two full years past replacement need. Costs for new units are also escalating at a higher rate and waiting also costs the City tens of thousands of dollars in cost increases for model year and surcharges for materials. As an example the new unit for the last Fredericksburg Rescue Squad unit was just under \$300,000 and a new identical unit ordered today is just under \$400,000. That is an increase of almost \$100,000 in about 18 months.

The current reserve unit is in front line service everyday now due to one of the primary ambulances having major motor troubles. Continued front line service everyday will expose this older unit to a potential major motor or chassis issue that could sideline it for many months and keep us to a point where we have very few options to have a reserve unit dedicated to the Fire Department.

FISCAL IMPACT

The source of funds in the General Fund is the Fund Balance Committed to Capital Projects, which totaled \$8.6 million at the close of FY 2022; \$3.1 million of these funds were budgeted for use in FY2023. After this ambulance purchase, and less the amount budgeted for use in FY2023, the Fund Balance Committed to Capital Projects total will be \$5.1 million.



February 14, 2023
Regular Meeting
Resolution 23-08

MOTION:

SECOND:

RE: **Amending the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget to Appropriate Funds for the Purchase of Public Safety Equipment**

ACTION: **APPROVED: Ayes: 0; Nays: 0**

FIRST READ: January 24, 2023 SECOND READ: _____

The City of Fredericksburg Fire Department currently operates an ambulance that is approaching the end of its useful life. The current capital improvements plan includes a replacement for this ambulance in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget. The City Council wishes to advance this purchase and supplement this funding because of supply chain and inflationary pressures.

Therefore, City Council resolves that the following appropriations amending the FY 2023 budget in the General Fund, and Public Safety Capital Fund be made:

General Fund (Fund 0100)

Sources

Fund Balance

Fund Balance Committed to Capital Projects	0100 361012	\$ 400,000
Total		<u>\$ 400,000</u>

Total Sources \$ 400,000

Uses

Interfund Transfers

Transfer to Capital Fund	10093100 492040	\$ 400,000
Total		<u>\$ 400,000</u>

Total Uses \$ 400,000

Public Safety Capital Fund (Fund 0306)

Sources

Transfers from Other Funds

Transfer from General Fund	0306 341050	\$ 400,000
Total		\$ 400,000

Total Sources \$ 400,000

Uses

Fire Equipment Replacement

FD Emergency Vehicles, Motor Vehicle & Equip Replace	30694601 481050	\$ 400,000
Total		<u>\$ 400,000</u>

Total Uses		<u>\$ 400,000</u>
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Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent from Vote:

Absent from Meeting:

Clerk's Certificate

I certify that I am Clerk of Council of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution No. 23-08, adopted at a meeting of the City Council held February 14, 2023, at which a quorum was present and voted.

Tonya B. Lacey, MMC
Clerk of Council