



Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority

Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 034/ 20

Government security classification: Official Not protectively marked

Title of report: Scheduled Replacement of Pumping Appliances

Area of county / stakeholders affected: County wide/ Operational stations and fire crews

Report by: Peter Warner – Engineering Manager - Head of Fleet and Equipment Services

Date of report: 23 November 2020

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1. Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) for the procurement of new fire appliances within financial years 21/22.

These replacements are in accordance with the Vehicle and Equipment Asset Management Strategy 2018 – 2021 Revision 7.

2. Recommendations

To approve the procurement of the replacement appliances under appropriate procurement processes and through nationally available purchasing frameworks. The requirement is currently 10 appliances which need replacing as they have reached the defined 15-year useful life.

3. Benefits of the proposal

The main benefits of this investment proposal are:

- The Service will be able to take advantage of more up-to-date technology in terms of engine efficiency and electronic safety features that new vehicles now offer.
- Older appliances, which have served their anticipated time, will be removed from the fleet and securely disposed of.
- The older vehicles being replaced have now reached their designated useful life and are likely to become less reliable and more costly to maintain. Particularly as spare parts become hard to obtain on 15-year-old assets. Indeed, we have already had issues with finding some now obsolete parts for our aging fleet assets.

4. Background and proposal

These replacements are in accordance with the Vehicle and Equipment Asset Management Strategy 2018 – 2021 Revision 7 which was discussed at the Strategic Board meeting on 8th June 2018.

COVID 19 has meant the Service was not able to procure any new appliances in the financial year 2020/21, and therefore the requirement for 10 new appliances accounts for the requirement for 21/22 and for those not procured in 20/21.

This procurement will be the last one under the Vehicle and Equipment Asset Management Strategy 2018-2021 Revision 7. A revised Strategy will be developed for agreement, this will detail the replacement strategy for years 2022 – 2025.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

Not replacing the appliances would result in less reliable vehicles being used for front line fire and rescue response activities. These assets would become increasingly more expensive to maintain and would incur increased downtime as parts become more difficult to obtain or become obsolete.

The fleet is the “Trademark” of the Fire and Rescue Service and often the first thing the public of Essex see of the Service. The ongoing investment and renewal of the fleet assets goes towards maintaining the trust and confidence the public has in the Service.

6. Strategic priorities

The provision of up to date assets and equipment incorporating the latest technology and safety features supports the ethos of the Fire and Rescue Plan 2019-2024 in improving efficiency, reducing risk and ensuring that the public in Essex are getting the best possible fire and rescue service.

7. Operational implications

It is essential that front line fire crews are equipped with efficient and effective resources to enable them to undertake their front-line response to incidents and investment in up-to-date assets is key in supporting that operational need.

8. Financial implications

Based on the previous iteration of Appliance specifications and the current market knowledge it is anticipated that the cost of replacement for 10 Appliances will be £2.2 million.

The implications of Brexit and current restrictions due to cover may affect this figure.

Once the tender has been completed, if there is an adverse cost variance in excess of 5% then a further update will be provided to the Commissioner in order to seek a decision. This is in line with the Constitution.

Capital receipts arising will be allocated to the capital receipts reserve after deduction of allowable disposals costs.

9. Legal implications

The ECFRSFRA has a duty of care and a legal obligation to ensure that its fleet of vehicles are compliant with applicable road traffic legislation this investment supports that aim.

10. Staffing implications

There are no adverse implications to this investment. The investment will allow crews to benefit from updated safety features which come with modern vehicles.

There will be a need for driver awareness and crew familiarisation with the new assets to enable the Service to obtain the maximum benefit from this investment.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

All appliances are built in accordance with the EN 1846 standard for fire fighting vehicles and part of this requirement is to meet the needs of a diverse work force for example, manual handling assessments and air suspension to lower the vehicle for removal of the main rescue ladder.

12. Risks

The Vehicle and Equipment Asset Management Strategy 2018 – 21 details the Authorities replacement schedule aligned to the current agreed life cycle for vehicles and equipment. Failure to procure appliances in line with this strategy will result in the authority not being able to meet the replacement schedule detailed within.

COVID 19 has resulted in the Authority not being able to procure appliances in the year 20/21. Due to the lead time for the procurement, build and delivery of these vehicles a decision to not agree the recommendation will result in the Service not being able to meet the life cycle agreed by the Authority. This has the potential to create further maintenance costs and difficulty sourcing parts for older vehicles, in addition to the service not being able to make the best use of the technology and safety available on new appliances compared to those that are 15 years old.

13. **Governance Boards**

The recommendation is aligned to the Vehicle and Equipment Asset Management Strategy 2018-2021 Revision 7 (attached as Appendix 1). This strategy has been discussed at the Strategic Board, in addition the capital requirements have been discussed via the Capital Board. The revised strategy 2022 – 2025 will be presented to Strategic Board in March. This will detail the management strategy for vehicles and assets for forthcoming years.



034 20 Appendix 1
Essex Vehicle Equip

Decision Process

Step 1A - Chief Fire Officer Comments

(The Chief Fire Officer is asked in their capacity as the Head of Paid Service to comment on the proposal.)

I am supportive of this recommendation and report.



Sign: Rick Hylton

Date: 25/11/2020

Step 1B – Consultation with representative bodies

(The Chief Fire Officer is to set out the consultation that has been undertaken with the representative bodies)


This is a business and H&S decision that does not require consultation with the rep bodies; previously strategically agreed.

Step 2 - Statutory Officer Review

The report will be reviewed by the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority's ("the Commissioner's") Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer prior to review and sign off by the Commissioner or their Deputy.

Deputy Monitoring Officer

Sign:



Print: Darren Horsman

Date: 15 December 2020

Chief Finance Officer

Sign:



Neil Cross

Date: 26/11/2020

Step 3 - Publication

Is the report for publication? YES

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication *(Where relevant, cite the security classification of the document(s). State 'none' if applicable)*

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If the report is not for publication, the Monitoring Officer will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

Step 4 - Redaction

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

- | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Of Decision Sheet | NO |
| 2 | Of Appendix | NO |

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

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Date redaction carried out:

If redaction is required, the Chief Finance Officer or the Monitoring Officer are to sign off that redaction has been completed.

Sign:

Print:

Date signed:

Step 5 - Decision by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner or Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign:  (PFCC)

Print: Roger Hirst

Date signed: 22 December 2020

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign: (PFCC / DPFCC)

Print: