



Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority

Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 030-21
Government security classification: Official Not protectively marked
Title of report: Scheduled Replacement of Pumping Appliances (update)
Area of county / stakeholders affected: County wide/ Operational stations and fire crews
Report by: Peter Warner, Head of Fleet and Equipment Services
Date of report: 24 March 2021
Enquiries to: peter.warner@essex-fire.gov.uk

1. Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on procurement activity undertaken following the approval of decision paper 034/ 20 and agree the scheduled replacement of 10 new fire appliances within the 21/22 financial year at an estimated cost of £2.2 million.

Decision sheet 034/20 estimated delivery of 8 units being in 2021/2022 at a budgeted capital cost of £1,760,000 and 2 units being added to the planned requirement of 10 appliances in 2022 financial years. (see below)

CURRENT CAPITAL PROGRAMME TO 2023-24

B113 - Vehicles	Asset Life	Budget 2020/21	Adjustment to Budget 2020-21	Revised Budget 2020-21	Carry Forward 2020-21	Forecast 2021/22	Forecast Incl. Cfwd 2021/22	Forecast 2022/23	Forecast 2023/24
Appliances (Pumping)	15	1,260,000	(1,260,000)	-	-	1,760,000	8 units 1,760,000	10+2 units 2,640,000	8 units 1,760,000

Following a tender exercise through the NFCC (National Fire Chiefs Council) pumping and specials vehicles framework, the unit cost per appliance has been set at £233K. It has also been confirmed that 10 units can be delivered before the end of the 21/22 financial year. We now seek approval from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) to purchase ten units at the tendered price within the 21/22 financial year and to revise the Forecast expenditure for subsequent years so we only purchase 10 in the 22/23 financial year rather than the 12 we had anticipated purchasing.

REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME TO 2023-24

B113 - Vehicles	Asset Life	Budget 2020/21	Adjustment to Budget 2020-21	Revised Budget 2020-21	Carry Forward 2020-21	Forecast 2021/22	Forecast 2022/23	Forecast 2023/24
Appliances (Pumping)	15	1,260,000	(1,260,000)	-	-	10 units 2,330,000	10 units 2,330,000	8 units 1,870,000

2. Recommendations

To authorise the purchase of 10 appliances in the 21/22 financial and a further 10 in the 22/23 financial year rather than the previously agreed 8 appliances in 21/22 and 12 in 22/23. This recommendation is a reprofiling of the original schedule further to confirmation that the supply chain can fulfil this number of appliances in the 21/22 financial year. This was the original preferred option for ECFRS.

To approve the revised Capital Budget provision based on the current tendered priced per appliance across years 22/23 and 23/24 in line with the Vehicle and Equipment Asset Management Strategy 2021 – 2026 Revision 8. It should be noted that there is an acceptable increase in the price following the tender.

3. Benefits of the proposal

The main benefits of this investment proposal remain the same as paper 034/ 20 but offer delivery of the benefits within more preferential timeframes:

- The service is 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 time severed appliances 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 previous agreed Vehicle and Equipment Asset Management Strategy 2018 – 2021 Revision 7, and the current agreed version of the Vehicle and Equipment Asset Management Strategy 2021 – 2026 Revision 8.

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 accounts for the requirement for 21/22 and recovers for those not procured in 20/21.

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

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 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. Investment in up to date assets is key in supporting that operational need.

8. Financial implications

Based on the recent tender exercise through the NFCC pumping and specials vehicles framework, the unit cost per appliance of the best response is set at £233K meaning a capital annual funding of £2.33 million is required as per the **Revised Capital Program to 2023-24** set out above.

The cost provided within the budgeted Capital Programme was £2.2m and therefore there is an increase of £0.13m from the tender process.

The budgeted capital programme included 8 appliances within 2021/22 and 2 within 2022/23. The tender confirms that all 10 vehicles will be delivered in 2021/22 and therefore the capital plan is to be amended to reallocate the purchase of 2 appliances totalling £466k back into 2021/22.

9. Legal implications

The ECFRS 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 the more update 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

Is this decision anticipated to have an impact on any of the following protected groups as defined within the Equality Act 2010:

<i>Race</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Religion or belief</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Sex</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Gender reassignment</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Age</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Pregnancy & maternity</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Disability</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Marriage and Civil Partnership</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Sexual orientation</i>	<i>No</i>		

All appliances are built in accordance with the EN 1846 standard for fire fighting vehicles and part of this requirement is to meet 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 2021 – 26 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 2011-2026 Revision 8. This strategy was agreed via the Strategic Board in March 2021, in addition the capital requirements have been agreed via the Capital Board.

Decision Process 030-21v2

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:  Jo Turton

Date: 26/ 03/ 2021

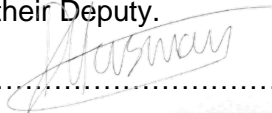
Step 1B – Consultation with representative bodies


(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.

Monitoring Officer Sign: 
Print: Darren Horsman.....
Date: 26 March 2021

Chief Finance Officer Sign:  Neil Cross
Date: 26/ 03/ 2021

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.

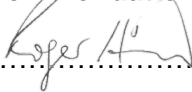
Sign:

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 / DPFCC)

Print: Roger Hirst

Date signed: 29 March 2021

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

.....
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Sign: (PFCC / DPFCC)

Print:

Date signed: