

TO: Finance Committee

FR: Tom Higgins, Assistant Fire Chief

DT: September 22, 2014

RE: Rescue Truck Purchase

The Fire Department operates five rescue trucks (ambulances) that respond to over 6000 requests for service each year. The current trucks were built by four different manufacturers on two different chassis. As the trucks have aged, obtaining parts and technical support has become increasingly challenging.

In southern Maine several fire departments were experiencing the same difficulties with their rescue trucks. A group collaborated to develop a specification that could be used to purchase multiple units. They eventually awarded a contract to purchase 16 trucks in six Maine communities. This contract has allowed them to standardize their fleets, as well as take advantage of multi-truck discounts by the body and chassis manufacturers. Additionally, they have better parts and service options, and a buy back program.

This "Southern Maine Bid" is available to Bangor for rescue truck purchases. Recently, the City of Auburn exercised the same option to buy three trucks as they start up a new EMS transport program. Locally, Orono & Old Town Fire Departments use the same equipment. The cost of the rescue truck will not exceed \$157,000. The only additional costs will be the installation of the radio. The FY 114/815 budget included \$164,500 for this purchase.

Staff is seeking Committee approval to participate in this group purchase cooperative.