

Memo



Willoughby Hills Fire Rescue

To: Mayor/Safety Director G. Andrew Gardner

From: Robert J. Gandee, Fire Chief 

Date: September 4, 2020

Re: CARES Act Ambulance Purchase

Mayor Gardner,

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Fire Department. I respectfully request your approval of the purchase of a 2019 Ford F-550 4X4 Type I Life Line ambulance which will have a significant impact on the overall health and safety for our personnel and patients. This will be the third Life Line ambulance that the City has purchased since 2003.

I have attached a quote from Pfund Superior Sales Co, Inc., 515 E. Turkeyfoot Lake Road, Suite D, Akron, OH 44319 as follows:

2019 Ford F-550 4X4 Type I Life Line Ambulance	\$239,200.00
Less Ford Chassis GPC credit	- 4,600.00
Net Cost	\$234,600.00
Add Stryker Power Load	+ 22,600.00
Add Vehicle Wrap with striping (estimate)	+ 14,000.00
Add Go Green Air Purification or UV Light (estimate)	+ 3,000.00
Add Stryker Power Cot – (estimated high for options)	+ 23,000.00
TOTAL COST FOB WILLOUGHBY HILLS	\$297,200.00

This is an immediate need for our Department and the vendor's supply is very limited, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The cost should qualify for Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) funding for the following reasons:

- 1) With the current pandemic, we have found that this new ambulance is better equipped to protect or crews against COVID-19 and any other highly contagious viruses.
- 2) New materials and technology in ambulances allow improved patient compartment isolation and decontamination. These improvements would benefit the community by providing Willoughby Hills with an additional ambulance, with progressive infection control materials and systems to provide advanced infection control measures for patients and workers on every EMS call.

- 3) The patient care compartment is relatively confined, making infection control related to airborne contaminants a greater hazard for EMTs and paramedics.
- 4) This ambulance will have an air handling purification/sanitization system to lessen the possible spread of airborne contaminants.
- 5) An additional ambulance will allow the Fire Department to compensate for the increased out-of-service time our ambulances experience due to the increased decontamination time required after treating and transporting suspected and/or confirmed COVID-19 patients.
- 6) An additional ambulance will likely eliminate the need for our Department to borrow an ambulance from a neighboring Fire Department, as we have had to do several times in the past.
- 7) We have had an increase in the tracking of COVID-19 runs, beginning with the County's notification of positive cases in Willoughby Hills and Waite Hill. We report suspected cases of individuals who we transport, with a follow up from the hospital as to the positive or negative testing of the patient. Recently, we have discussed appointing an Infections Control Officer to assist in this tracking, as well as to serve with other diseases once COVID-19 threat is eliminated.
- 8) We have also seen the need increase staffing due to COVID-19. The time it takes to decontaminate a vehicle, and often times to allow the personnel to shower or become decontaminated, increases the "call time", which results in additional personnel needed, particularly with "back to back" calls in the Department.

Please let me know if I can provide any other information or justification for this emergency purchase. I appreciate your consideration.