



**APPROVED by Board 2/13/2023**

## **Glacier View Fire Protection District**

1414 Green Mountain Dr. • Livermore • Colorado • 80536

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

January 19th at 3:00pm

GVFPD SPECIAL Board Meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM via in-person and ZOOM

Board of Directors present: President Dave Burk, Treasurer David Thompson, Director Steve Groeteke, and Vice President Bill Salmon and Secretary Ron Lindroth via Zoom

Members present: District Administrator Franz, Ed Sather, and Assistant Chief Jim Perry and Assistant Chief Peter Henderson via Zoom

Public Members: 1

### **1. Apparatus Discussion – 10-year Capital Equipment Replacement Plan and 15-year Facilities Plan**

Secretary Lindroth started by saying that our current engine was down at Mountain View being serviced to the best of our ability and that Mountain View had stated that it is in decent condition for its age but no guarantees for its age. However, it was stated that the engine should last GVFPD another 3 to 5 years. The Apparatus Committee believes that having a good Type 1 engine and keeping our current engine as a backup is the best action for reducing risk for losing a Type 1 engine. Secretary Lindroth stated that our current engine is not four-wheel drive, it is aged, and trying to find an engine that fits our needs at an affordable price point will be challenging. He expressed that trying to find an engine if needed quickly would be impossible. He added that the engine they found specked out to what the committee was looking for; correct size for crew capacity, four-wheel drive, sufficiently large pump, roll up doors, low miles, and reasonably priced given the low usage on the engine and that appears to be in good condition. He noted that service records have been requested, but have not been reviewed, the engine has been pump tested, and equipment on the engine will be negotiated. Secretary Lindroth reminded the Board that since the committee is recommending keeping the current engine, it will be necessary to get equipment on the new engine. He stated that the engine is roughly 12 years old, and the tires will also need to be inspected but cannot be verified at this time. Secretary Lindroth stated that currently there is a verbal agreement on the engine, and if approved by the Board, GVFPD would issue a deposit check for \$5K to hold the engine, and a timeline would be set up. He is unsure if the \$5K would be nonrefundable but might be if it is a mechanical issue that we are not comfortable with. Treasurer Thompson asked if we were responsible for taking the engine to the dealership for inspection. Secretary Lindroth would like that in the negotiations for having this done and other items.

Secretary Lindroth's personal view is that the district is at risk should we lose our structure engine. He stated that with our engine being out for repair for an extended period of time, it would affect our ISO insurance rating which would in effect raise insurance rates for the community.

Treasurer Thompson asked where the engine was located. Assistant Chief Perry stated that the engine is in South Carolina.

Vice President Salmon reiterated what Secretary Lindroth stated and added that the engine is not age limited and we could expect another ten years out of it. He believes that this is an unusual opportunity and time is of the essence.

Treasurer Thompson asked if the engine would be better suited to maneuver within some of the difficult driveways and roadways in the district. Assistant Chief Henderson stated that the engine is 30' and is shorter than our current engine and has a shorter wheelbase.

Director Groetke asked if someone in South Carolina could look at the engine and vouch for its condition. Assistant Chief Perry stated that when he spoke to the Fire Chief of the department it was indicated that there is a Pierce dealership that is not far from their location and that GVFPD would be asking for the engine to be taken to the dealership for a full inspection.

President Burk asked how the vehicle would get out here. Secretary Lindroth stated that there are two options, either drive it out or have it hauled out. The committee would have to research the CDL requirements by state if driving the engine out and he could personally make arrangements to go down to South Carolina and drive the engine back. He would also like to have another person go and decide if the engine is what we expected to get then drive it back. President Burk asked if the cost of bringing the engine back was included in the purchase price of \$275,000 and Secretary Lindroth said that the transport cost was included. President Burk asked about the liability of driving the engine back verses having it delivered. Secretary Lindroth stated that GVFPD would add the engine to our insurance before leaving. He added that he would like to get an agreement that if something were to happen, and the engine blew when driving back, that there would be some warranty from the dealership that performed the inspection. President Burk noted that driving the engine back would double the mileage on the engine and Secretary Lindroth agreed. Moving forward, Vice President Salmon would like to see both options with numbers and agreed with someone going out and getting eyes and hands on the engine to see if there are issues before getting it here, and if driving, identify any issues that would need repaired.

Treasurer Thompson reviewed the 10-year Capital Equipment Replacement Plan and the 15-year Facilities Plan. His issue is that Operations has pulled the engine from 2025 to 2023 and caused negative balances in the Capital Plan. He hoped that having the engine replaced in 2025 GVFPD could offset a chunk of the cost with grants. Treasurer Thompson stated that if we spend the money now, it is all our funds, and there is no grant that would offset any costs for the engine. He reminded the Board that at one time the number one priority from Operations was a Tender, but that would now have to be pushed back to 2025. He expressed his concern about adopting a plan and having it continually change because priorities change, noting that the plan is a road map on how to proceed and keep on track beyond the next Board or Fire Chief. Treasurer Thompson did work the plan so that this engine purchase was possible. This was done by pulling money out of the Facilities Plan and put into the Capital Plan, making balances low in the Facilities Plan for the next several years, and noted that the exhaust system had to be pushed back to 2024. See attached documents. Vice President Salmon agreed with looking for grants for the Tender now that it has been pushed back.

Treasurer Thompson asked for the advantages of keeping the current engine along with having the newer engine and where would it be stored. Secretary Lindroth shared the advantages stating that it gives GVFPD a backup engine and a backup engine for mutual aid for other departments. He added that if we have an engine fail then there would be backup. He mentioned that if we were to ever build a

secondary station then the older engine would be stored there. Assistant Chief Perry mentioned that station 2 could house apparatus on a short-term basis, however there is no heat in the building.

President Burk noted that all the points being made seem to be applicable to the current engine. He believes that if we keep the engine then there must be some confidence in the Apparatus Committee of the current engines ability to function for us and wants to know why we don't keep it for another two years before purchasing the requested engine. Secretary Lindroth stated that keeping the engine gives us a backup plan and without it there is no backup engine. President Burk again stated that an engine replacement is in the current Capital Plan for 2025, and the submittal from the Apparatus Committee stated the need for an engine replacement was in 3 to 5 years and noted that GVFPD is trying to get through the next two years. He gave the background on the Tender stating that seven years ago Tender 1 was Operation's number one priority and has continued to float through the plan for the past seven years and noted that we still don't have the Tender replaced. He asked about the ISO impact of the newer engine because it has fewer gallons than the current engine. Assistant Chief Henderson stated that the newer engine is a Type 1 and that our ISO rating would remain the same. President Burk reminded the Board that the oil analysis and the mechanic that went through our current engine has given us reasonable assurance that it will last for the next two years and added that we need to base our judgement on the mechanic's report and oil analysis report and not on "we don't think the engine will make it." Vice President Salmon's issue is that our engine is a two-wheel drive for our topography and just doesn't work. He feels that a four-wheel drive is a huge priority. President Burk added that we have operated for eight years with our current engine, and we haven't had four-wheel drive, and it shows that there wasn't an emergent requirement with two years left for the engine, and suddenly it is being suggested that it is incapable for its use for the district. Both agreed that this newer engine was found with the used market being tight, and Vice President Salmon added that this is a good option for GVFPD now.

President Burk doesn't believe that the benefit of buying this engine now outweighs the damage and the risk in blowing up the Capital Equipment Replacement Plan in the next five years. He asked if the Board felt that the Capital Equipment Replacement Plan needs to be revised to make the purchase of the newer engine. Vice President Salmon appreciated the work on both the Capital Equipment Replacement Plan and the Facilities Plan by Treasurer Thompson and the way it is laid out. Secretary Lindroth reiterated what Vice President Salmon stated and added that plan is moveable, adjustable and flexible and this is a good plan. Treasurer Thompson noted that the Capital Plan balance is roughly \$276K and that \$30K (1.15mil) would be going into the Facilities Plan as submitted. He wanted it understood that the purpose is to maintain the integrity of the plans, and any change in the plans ripples through the whole plan. Director Groeteke added that if we have the facility and not the right equipment in it, then what good is the facility. President Burk again stated that this is not an emergent situation and is a planned need on the Capital Plan in 2025. Vice President Salmon stated that if this plan didn't show how we can move things around and still accomplish our goals moving forward than it would be hard to make the decision to make the purchase. President Burk respectively added that just because we can doesn't mean we should and that is the difference. He noted that the repercussions put the exhaust system down the road and disregards the health and safety of the members, and the Tender gets pushed back two more years and now makes it nine years since it was Operation's number one priority. President Burk appreciates all the work that the committee has done and doesn't want to see GVFPD in a bind down the road. He added that the fiduciary responsibility falls on the Board in making the decision on the engine and if this is the right timing for the purchase.

Director Groeteke questioned the availability of other engines and wanted confirmation that the anticipated costs down the road would be considerably higher because of the lack of availability and

wanted input from the committee. Assistant Chief Perry stated that the committee has extensively searched for used apparatus and in the few months that they have been looking they had found three that fit our needs but only one that would fit our budget, stating that the market is tough, and engines are moving fast. Secretary Lindroth is asking the Board to consider the purchase now because opportunities like this are rare and is afraid that something might happen to our existing engine, and he doesn't want to be put into a reactionary mode. Treasurer Thompson asked what the market would be for our current engine if we were to sell it since it has been stated that the used market is high. Secretary Lindroth thought our engine would probably bring around \$75K to \$100K if we were to sell it. Treasurer Thompson suggested to sell our engine as it would cut our costs back from the purchase of the newer one unless we really need a backup. Secretary Lindroth recommended keeping the older engine. Director Salmon stated that he could go either way with the older engine and is comfortable with exploring the option of selling the engine. Director Groetke summed up that deviating from the plan may actually benefit us from waiting two years and having to pay more for a pumper down the road for an equivalent pumper. Treasurer Thompson added that if we waited a couple of years according to the plan than we could go after grants that would help fund the purchase.

Assistant Chief Perry confirmed to the Board that Chief Knox and the Apparatus Committee are in agreement with pursuing the purchase of the engine.

Treasurer Thompson suggested that if we proceeded with the purchase of the engine, he would like to adopt the revised both the Capital Equipment Replacement Plan and Facilities Plan because it is different from the previous plan.

**Vice President Salmon entertained a motion to approve \$275,000 towards the purchase of the South Carolina engine with a \$5K deposit provided to the department to hold the engine, contingent that it is sound mechanically and to have the committee be able to negotiate how that will get done and how the committee plans to get the engine out here and wants the committee to continue to inform the Board with updates.**

President Burk asked for confirmation that the price of \$275K was all inclusive with people going out, the mechanic review, and equipment, and stated that if we buy the engine without everything, we will have to purchase those items in addition. Vice President Salmon confirmed that \$275K was a good amount and suggested the deposit of \$5K be good for 30 days to allow time to get it looked at and asked for a written report on the outcome as well as a report on the cost for travel versus delivery costs. Secretary Lindroth would like the \$275K for the purchase and equipment and the negotiations would be towards the travel cost because negotiations have not been completed nor are there any true cost of moving the engine. Treasurer Thompson stated that he can make the \$275K work but anything over that will be a real push. Secretary Lindroth stated that anything over and they would come back to the Board. Treasurer Thompson asked the Apparatus Committee to include a way to pay for any additional costs incurred if the cost is over \$275K.

**Secretary Lindroth seconded the motion. Call for discussion.** Further discussion included Secretary Lindroth asking if the Board would like him to take the lead on moving forward and reporting back to the Board. The Board was comfortable with him as the liaison on the Apparatus Committee and getting information to the Board. **Motion carried, 4-1.**

Treasurer Thompson will get back with the Board at the February meeting with an updated 10-year Capital Equipment Replacement Plan and a 15-year Facilities Plan.

**Public Comments:**

Mr. Delano stated that, on a budget standpoint, this engine purchase will raise several questions and issues. He encouraged actively working on grants, including a grant for a facility to house the backup engine, and a grant for the exhaust system, as they will be helpful in making the two plans a lot more workable. He is concerned about water sourcing and the availability of water. He questioned if the backup engine would have to be drained to keep from freezing while it sits or will it be housed with water storage. He would like to hear this discussion because it would be an issue.

**Board Comments:**

Secretary Lindroth thanked the Board for the consideration on this purchase and the willingness to discuss the issue.

Treasurer Thompson admitted that he can see both sides of purchasing verses waiting and came down to the point that the plan can be managed. He will support the purchase.

Director Groeteke thanked the Apparatus Committee for their work in bringing this forward and recognized the responsibility the Board has to the district to provide fire protection to the best of our financial ability. He shared that it is a balancing act to try to stay prudent financially and fiscally, but there is also a big responsibility on us to be expected to provide fire service if and when it is needed. His hope is that we are moving in the right direction with this decision.

Vice President Salmon thanked the Apparatus Committee and Mr. Delano’s comments and thanked Treasurer Thompson for such a clear plan. He shared his appreciation for the Board and thanked President Burk for his leadership in how we are conducting business. He expressed his honor to be on the Board and thanked everyone for listening and being part of this decision as we move forward.

President Burk thanked the Apparatus Committee for their work and thanked the Board. He will have District Administrator Franz put the 10-year Capital Equipment Replacement Plan and the 15-year Facilities Plan on the February Agenda for ongoing discussion of the plans and discussion about keeping the current engine and the impacts of that.

**BOARD ACTION:**

**\$275,000 purchase towards a South Carolina engine – approved 4-1**

President Burk made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 04:35 PM. Treasurer Thompson accepted the motion. President Burk seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted  
Cheryl Franz – District Administrator

**Next regular board meeting is Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 7PM – Station 1**