

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 15, 2005

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, December 15, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

-  
Mayor Bernard A. Streeter presided.

Members of the Committee present:           Alderman-at-Large David Rootovich, Vice-Chair  
  Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane  
  Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner  
  Alderman Robert A. Dion  
  Alderman Kathryn D. Vitale  
  Alderman Robert Shaw

Members not in Attendance:

Also in Attendance:                            Amy Gill, CSO Storm Water Engineer  
  Mario LeClerc, Superintendent of Wastewater  
  Lt. William Mansfield, Div. Supervisor, Nashua Police Dept.  
  Det. Brian Battaglia, Evidence Identification Div., NPD  
  Scott Reeding, Nashua Police Department  
  Karen Smith, Business Manager, Financial Serv. Div., NPD  
  Captain Douglas Hayes, Bureau Commander, NPD  
  Janice Tremblay, C.P.M., Purchasing Manager  
  Angelo Marino, Chief Assessor/GIS Manager  
  Michael Mansfield, Asst. Fire Chief of Spec. Oper., NFR  
  Roger Hatfield, Fire Chief  
  Paul Garant, Fire Commissioner  
  Thomas Stepney, Fire Fleet Superintendent, NFR

-  
COMMUNICATIONS

From: Janice Tremblay, C.P.M., Purchasing Manager  
Re:           Additional Requirements for Snow Plow Cutting Edges

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SHAW TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO HOWARD P. FAIRFIELD, INC. FOR AN ADDITIONAL COST OF \$12,000. SOURCE OF FUNDING IS ACCT. #553-78100-6930**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

From: Janice Tremblay, C.P.M., Purchasing Manager  
Re: Contract Award for Design Services for the Contract 4C – CSO  
Structure 003 (Farmington Rd) Outfall Reconstruction

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SHAW TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO FAY, SPOFFORD & THORNDIKE, LLC, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$239,850. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN ACCT. #792-53030-3792**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

Is Risk Management and Legal done reviewing the information, contract language, standard DES contract language?

Mayor Streeter

I think I know the answer, but I think Mrs. Gill will set us straight.

Amy Gill

Legal and Risk have both reviewed the contract, and other than a few typos that were corrected, it has been approved.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Mayor Streeter

Is there any further discussion?

**MOTION CARRIED**

From: Janice Tremblay, C.P.M., Purchasing Manager  
Re: Contract Award for Ash Street Area Sewer Rehabilitation Project

**WITHDRAWN**

From: Janice Tremblay, C.P.M., Purchasing Manager  
Re: Bid Summary and Contract Award for ¾ Ton Truck with Plow  
Requested by Wastewater Treatment Facility

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SHAW TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO DOBLES CHEVROLET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,500. SOURCE OF FUNDING IS ACCT. #802-68045-8330-8700**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

My question is how is this task currently being performed – the clearing the snow and maintaining the 12 pump stations?

Mario LeClerc

It is being performed with the one pick up truck that we have that is four-wheel drive and a plow. When we have moderate to substantial snowfall it takes us four days to complete that task.

Alderman Deane

Why does it take four days?

Mario LeClerc

We have snow removal activities at the wastewater treatment facility and then we go out to the 12 pump stations and the CSO structures.

Alderman Deane

Is a new truck going to make it less than four days?

Mario LeClerc

Yes sir. We will add an additional truck to perform those tasks.

Alderman Deane

Will this truck be driven by an AFSCME employee or a UAW employee?

Mario LeClerc

UAW.

Alderman Deane

I was under the impression that the UAW employees were not allowed to plow.

Mario LeClerc

You are going to have an AFSCME employee driving with a UAW in the truck also.

Alderman Deane

The UAW guy can't drive, but the AFSCME employee can plow?

Mario LeClerc

It is going to be AFSCME related work to maintain the structures.

Alderman Deane

So the AFSCME employee will be driving and the UAW will be overseeing the ..

Mario LeClerc

Operations yes.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Alderman Tollner

How long has it been this way – taken four days when it snows and things like that and why the sudden need for this truck?

Mario LeClerc

The collection system crew has been at the wastewater treatment facility for a little over two years. With the added responsibility that we have had maintaining all of these structures it has been a burden keeping up with the snow removal. When we have moderate to substantial snowfall we just can't keep up. If we delay the snow removal operation, it becomes frozen and then we have to get out there – Scott Pollock helps us with heavy equipment to move some of the snow around, which places a burden on his staff. If we are a little more aggressive and responsive to removing the snow it is easier on everybody.

Alderman Tollner

If we were not to purchase this truck you could get assistance from Scott Pollock's crew to do that could you not?

Mario LeClerc

We could, but there is some additional information that is not included in the letter – in the event that we have a sewer backup or flooded areas we need to clear those catch basins and drainage swales immediately so that we don't flood any private or public property. There is a burden placed on Scott Pollock's crew to help us with that also. It becomes a burden in those flooded areas whether it is storm flow or trying to locate a manhole or diversion structure when there is an actual sewer problem.

Alderman Shaw

This vehicle is replacing the 1996 two-wheel drive truck right?

Mario LeClerc

Yes sir. It is a two-wheel drive pickup truck.

Alderman Shaw

Are there any plans for that vehicle at this point?

Mario LeClerc

It will be available to other departments for their use. There has been some interest in the Public Works Division to use that vehicle. It is still road worthy it just doesn't meet our needs – we cannot carry the necessary equipment and we cannot plow snow with it.

Alderman Shaw

Thank you.

Mayor Streeter

Are there any further questions?

Alderman Deane

What kind of body is this truck going to have on it?

Mario LeClerc

It will have a utility body so it can carry the numerous tools and equipment that the sewer crew needs – metal detectors to locate manholes, special picks to remove manhole covers, the magnet to actually pick up the cover so we minimize back injuries, marking paint, kent seal to seal manhole covers, locating equipment, flushing tools, the old manual spoons to remove debris in catch basins or manholes, various picks and shovels.

Alderman Deane

Don't we already have a vehicle with all of those – with a utility body on it?

Mario LeClerc

Yes sir and that is the pump station truck and that is also a two-wheel drive – that is not capable of removing snow.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Mayor Streeter

Are there any further questions?

**MOTION CARRIED**

From: Janice Tremblay, C.P.M., Purchasing Manager

Re: Contract Award for Replacing the Hydraulic Gate Operator  
on the Main Gate at the Wastewater Treatment Facility

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SHAW TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND  
AWARD THE CONTRACT TO WATERLINE INDUSTRIES CORP. IN THE AMOUNT OF  
\$115,177. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN ACCT. #802-96522-8500-8900**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

Do you happen to know what the balance is in that account?

Mario LeClerc

I don't have that information. I will gladly get it to you for tomorrow.

Alderman Deane

What else can we anticipate spending out of that account? What other projects do we have in mind or is this solely this wastewater equipment replacement fund wet well – is that how that account is titled Mrs. Anderson? That is the line in the budget?

Carol Anderson

Yes.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Mayor Streater

Are there any further questions?

**MOTION CARRIED**

From: Janice Tremblay, C.P.M., Purchasing Manager

Re: Contract Award for Video Enhancement Software for Nashua  
Police Department

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SHAW TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO PERFECTA CAMERA CORPORATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,389. SOURCE OF FUNDING IS ACCT. #731-64040-3705**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

On the video recorder, can you explain the video recorder (although a video recorder was included with the proposal) did the other firms include that?

Brian Battaglia

Not all of the other.

Alderman Deane

What are we going to do with the recorder?

Brian Battaglia

-  
The recorder itself is going to be tied into a computer through a patch cord. We can take the original video specimen and download that particular image or video that we want onto hard drive unit thus preserving the original piece of evidence that would be played from the recorder and download it into the hard drive unit.

Alderman Deane

When the other firms bid did they have a recorder included with their proposals as well?

Brian Battaglia

They did not.

Alderman Deane

Theirs didn't require it?

Brian Battaglia

They didn't include that as part of their proposal sir.

Alderman Deane

And the software from Ocean Systems is not user friendly – is that not a Windows application?

Brian Battaglia

It is a Windows application, but it is designed more as a professional editing system than the Salient Stills product, which is geared towards more user-friendly type system. The Salient Stills product would require less training and more importantly once it is being used by an officer or a detective it would require less time away from that officer or detective's assignment to complete the task at hand.

Alderman Deane

Would you happen to know what the software update costs are and the yearly licensing costs are after this purchase is complete and how you plan on funding that in the future?

Brian Battaglia

We do have the update costs if it is chosen by the city to get that particular update.

Alderman Deane

Then there is also a yearly licensing fee that has to be paid right?

William Mansfield

The yearly maintenance after year one is \$2,395.

Alderman Deane

That is the yearly licensing fee?

William Mansfield

Yes.

Alderman Deane

How are we going to pay for that?

William Mansfield

It would have to be rolled into the budget.

Alderman Deane

How many times have we rolled licensing fees into the budget through the police department computerization project? Do we know what the total is of all of the software that has been purchased since this project started?

William Mansfield

I can tell you there has been a reduction in costs of maintenance through the computerization project through the years.

Alderman Deane

Reduction in maintenance – what about the increase in licensing fee – are they one in the same?

William Mansfield

Yes they are one in the same.

Alderman Deane

So they equate to being equal? The two numbers are equal is what you are telling me – what you have seen in a reduction in maintenance and what you have seen in an increase in licensing fee those numbers are almost one in the same?

William Mansfield

Yes.

Alderman Deane

So it has no adverse affect on your budget.

William Mansfield

It should not have any impact on the budget.

Alderman Deane

Thank you very much.

Mayor Streeter

Are there any further questions?

**MOTION CARRIED**

From: Janice Tremblay, C.P.M., Purchasing Manager

Re: Purchase Tactical Ballistic Shield System for Nashua Police  
Special Reaction Team

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SHAW TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO INSTANT ARMOR, INC. IN A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$21,039.94. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN ACCT. #331-64030-6613-6221**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

Is there someone here to speak on this? I wish you had brought a picture – did you?

Scott Reeding

Yes I did.

Alderman Deane

As I read this it is like someone is trying to carry around a lead the size of a sheet of plywood.

Scott Reeding

We are proposing to buy 3 panels instead of the 5 panels that you see. Those are all rifle capable panels that would stop rifle rounds. The ballistic blanket would be used if we had an active shooter at the high school or we had a citizen down in an apartment building – it would allow the officers to move down a hallway without being shot from a rifle.

Alderman Deane

The only drawback to this is how they carry it because the fellow in the picture half of his body is sticking out because his arms are holding the shield... my question is normally you are not able to purchase directly from a manufacturer, but in this case it is stated that you were afforded that opportunity.

Scott Reeding

Yes.

Alderman Deane

There is no distributor of this product in the area?

Scott Reeding

No distributor in the New England area.

Alderman Deane

They sell directly wholesale to whoever wants to purchase their products with no middleman?

Scott Reeding

To the law enforcement agencies that is correct.

Alderman Deane

We probably see some significant savings until they start to put this out in the market?

Scott Reeding

Yes. Actually it is the only one that we can purchase it from so we wouldn't know the difference between a wholesaler or purchasing it directly from the company.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Alderman Tollner

Regarding the account – it comes from the Homeland Security Grant – there is no problem, no match, no contribution out of this fund, and our own fund to purchase this – I know it says it here in the memo, but every dollar is coming out of Homeland Security money?

Karen Smith

Yes. Absolutely. That money is set aside for the purpose of the SRT unit solely and there is no match.

Alderman Tollner

Maybe in the future, maybe next term – at one of the Finance meetings can you give us an idea of how much is available and how much is left in that account as we go forward? A number of different items are coming out of that account right?

Karen Smith

If I could clarify, we have numerous Homeland Grants and I could summarize all of the different Homeland grants and their purposes and balances.

Alderman Tollner

Okay. If that is not too much trouble.

Karen Smith

Not at all.

Alderman Tollner

Thank you.

Alderman Deane

On the related insurance carriers – can you explain that?

Scott Reeding

The company is going to guarantee this ballistic vest/shield for five years. That is what that is referring to.

Alderman Deane

That is the warrantee?

Scott Reeding

Yes sir.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Mayor Streeter

Are we ready for the question?

**MOTION CARRIED**

Mayor Streeter

The next two items – is it necessary for us to go into closed session or would someone like to move both items by the generic title?

Unidentified Speaker

We don't have to as long as we don't describe what the vehicles are.

Mayor Streeter

I am seeking the opinion of the committee. Is it something that we have to go into ...

Alderman Deane

No.

From: Janice Tremblay, C.P.M., Purchasing Manager

Re: Purchase Used Vehicle (#2) for Undercover Unit

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SHAW TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE**

**CONTRACTS TO LOWERING VOLVO OF NASHUA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,124. SOURCE OF FUNDING IS ACCT. #331-68045-6613-6226**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

I had a question on the fuel – will the fuel for these be gotten from other sources? It won't be taken from the department pumps is that correct?

Karen Smith

No. We have a line item in our budget for these vehicles.

Alderman Deane

So the vehicles never go to the pumps at the Street Department?

Karen Smith

No.

Alderman Deane

Are these replacing other vehicles?

Douglas Hayes

They are.

Alderman Deane

So we are retiring two and swapping out two then?

Douglas Hayes

Yes.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Alderman Dion

My question is the one from Volvo what kind of vehicle is that?

Douglas Hayes

It is an undercover vehicle sir. We don't ...

Alderman Dion

You don't want to announce the brand name? That is a no no?

Douglas Hayes

That is correct.

Alderman Dion

Thank you.

Alderman Tollner

It was mentioned that these will be replacing vehicles. What are we doing with the vehicles that they are replacing?

Douglas Hayes

They will be going up to the state to be auctioned off. They both have about 140,000 – 145,000 miles on them.

Alderman Tollner

Will that money be returned to the Department of Justice Fund or returned to the city fund?

Douglas Hayes

It will be returned to city funds in a percentage of whatever the percentage was initially.

Alderman Tollner

Thank you.

Mayor Streeter

Are there any further questions?

**MOTION CARRIED**

From: Janice Tremblay, C.P.M., Purchasing Manager  
Re: Purchase Used Vehicle (#1) for Undercover Unit

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SHAW TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO TOYOTA OF NASHUA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,599. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN ACCT. #331-68045-6613-6226  
MOTION CARRIED**

From: Janice Tremblay, C.P.M., Purchasing Manager  
Re: Contract Award to Lease New Copiers for Nashua Police  
Department

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SHAW TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO CONWAY OFFICE PRODUCTS WITH AN ANNUAL LEASE AMOUNT OF \$12,764 ON A FIVE-YEAR LEASE AGREEMENT. SOURCE OF FUNDING IS ACCT. #531-66025-6372 (\$6,382) AND ACCT. #531-72010-6372 (\$8,832)**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Tollner

The price that we are paying here are we realizing – is there an overall city contract for copiers and you are incorporating this arrangement into what the city gets – are we combining purchasing power of what we have in other departments in the city or is this a sole contract for the police department?

Karen Smith

We did go out to bid, and Conway is one of the main vendors for the City of Nashua. Zerox is a product that I have been very, very pleased with and last year I actually just couldn't make the argument for staying with Zerox. If Janice wants to add further – we are trying to go with Conway because they do have most of the business in the city.

Janice Tremblay

Karen Smith is correct in that we have over the last several years, in attempting to realize economies of scale, we have tried to standardize on product that Conway Office sells and services and we have been able to get our per copy costs lowered and more under control. This is a joint effort between the city and school department as well. The school department has a number of Conway products; the Konica/Minolta line. This year actually Conway was competitive across the board. Five years ago we stayed with Zerox on the combination color/black and white copier. Konica/Minolta has developed a very, very competitive machine with speeds and quality to meet what Zerox had been offering for the last several years. We are able

to award the entire contract to Conway this year.

Alderman Tollner

So the price reflected in this memo here is reflective of our citywide arrangement with Conway?

Janice Tremblay

Yes it is.

Alderman Tollner

The reason why this is here tonight is our previous contract expired?

Karen Smith

Correct.

Alderman Tollner

With that we are not – there are no penalties from moving from Zerox to Conway – the contract ended and we are just moving over to ...

Karen Smith

Right. We filled out any paperwork we would need to remove that copier at the end of the lease.

Alderman Tollner

How does this new price compare to the price that you had budgeted previously with the old contract?

Karen Smith

We are in line with our budget. Thankfully the prices have come down probably because of the volume we are buying from one vendor, and, therefore, I can budget flat for next year – the same budget I have this year for copiers. The only item we will see is that the cost of the lease versus service - service is currently higher and with a new machine the money will be in next year's budget just rearranged between the 60 account and the 70 account. The total cost will be in line.

Alderman Tollner

Thank you.

Mayor Streeter

Are there any further questions?

**MOTION CARRIED**

From: Janice Tremblay, C.P.M., Purchasing Manager

Re: Purchase and Installation of Software for Nashua Fire Rescue

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SHAW TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO INFORMATION MANAGEMENT CORPORATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$97,100. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN ACCT. #731-64075-3705**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

My question to whomever is here to answer it is – Mr. Marino are you still a part of the IT Division?

Angelo Marino

Proudly yes.

Alderman Deane

Have we had any problems with the Police Department portion of this software that they ...

Angelo Marino

You mean are they having any problems with their software – as far as I know no. You can query Lt. Mansfield, but as far as I know it is working rather well.

William Mansfield

We have not been experiencing any problems with the software that we currently have from IMC.

Alderman Deane

In the past we have purchased software and had awful experiences.

William Mansfield

We have had a very positive experience with IMC until this point. They have bent over

backwards for the city and made a lot of adjustments to this software free of charge, which benefits everybody who owns this software.

Alderman Deane

So the people have bent over backwards for you?

William Mansfield

Yes.

Alderman Deane

Like the people that came to pick up the other stuff that didn't work that bent over forward to pick it up?

Angelo Marino

If I may add to that Alderman Deane that was the impetus for us wanting Nashua Fire Rescue going with IMC as well because some of the information systems that the Nashua Police Department are currently using will also dovetail into some of the systems that we are currently trying to do as well.

Alderman Deane

So police and fire will be compatible with the software ...

Angelo Marino

Absolutely.

Alderman Deane

What is the yearly licensing agreement and update for use management fees whatever you want to consider them?

William Mansfield

On the police side I believe it is about \$30,000 a year.

Alderman Deane

\$30,000 a year and what is it on the fire side?

Angelo Marino

It is going to be approximately \$12,000.

Alderman Deane

Are we seeing efficiencies where we are going to have this money in our budget or is this going to be added next year?

Unidentified Speaker

We should be able to realize some efficiencies where we are going to be able to offset some of these increases in cost. Also we should be able to offset some of these things with additional funding from other sources outside of the city.

Alderman Deane

Obviously the licensing agreements and updates for the police department is more extravagant than what the fire department needs – is that why there is a significant difference in cost?

Angelo Marino

That is correct.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Mayor Streeter

Are there any further questions?

**MOTION CARRIED**

From: Janice Tremblay, C.P.M., Purchasing Manager

Re: Contract Award for Hazardous Materials Detection System

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SHAW TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO ARAMSCO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$61,778. SOURCE OF FUNDING IS ACCT. #332-64192-6701-6315**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

Could we have an overview of the system that will allow the division to have the capability to remotely detect the presence of chemical, biological, and other toxic materials that they want to purchase, and what we are using now that this may be replacing?

Michael Mansfield

In reference to this, this remote hazardous gas detection system. Currently Nashua Fire Rescue, which is a key component to the Souhegan mutual aid hazardous materials response team does not have this remote gas detection capability at this point. We were awarded grant funding through Homeland Security that came through the federal government trickled back to the state to be able to purchase such a system that will allow us to set up remote detection sites that are basically stand alone sites that report to a single station that will give us pretty much an alarm if one of these remote systems detects anything in the way of chemical warfare type agents, any decrease in oxygen, any increase in carbon monoxide – anything that typically we would normally be looking for in a situation that would indicate that we have some sort of a hazardous materials issue.

The reason for the remote system is basically to set up in large areas. We can pretty much set these up and have these report to a sole single station up to two miles away. They don't have to be manned. We can leave them out there as standalone sites and have them continue to monitor and send back real time feedback to a single station manned computer unit. It just increases our efficiency capabilities and so forth without having to have people out there with hand held systems and so forth and putting them in danger.

Alderman Deane

I take it these are mobile units that will not be fixed into place. The only time they will be used is when you think you may need them or are they going to be fixed in place somewhere?

Michael Mansfield

We can do either way. Typically what most of the teams that have purchased these already have done is set them up and pre-staged them prior to major events such as – Fourth of July fireworks display in Nashua around Holman Stadium, the Holiday Stroll in different areas surrounding Main Street and so forth where we have large crowds gathered, which typically has been an issue in other areas of the country where you have large crowds gathering, and the possibility that something might occur there. It just gives us the ability to set these up away from and outside the area so that if something were to happen it gives us time to be able to react prior to it actually becoming an issue.

Alderman Deane

How high are the antennas?

Michael Mansfield

The antennas are only going to be standing probably about a foot to 18" off these units. They also have the capability of repeaters built into them as well so it allows us to set these up two miles away from where we are actually monitoring these systems.

Alderman Deane

What circumference will they read out to? Say you put one on the roof of the Hunt Building and you put one on top of a light tower on Holman Stadium basically two locations, what is the distance?

Michael Mansfield

Four miles.

Alderman Deane

You could almost pretty much figure – that would be ...

Michael Mansfield

If I set them up in repeater mode I can basically cover upwards of 12-16 square miles if necessary in repeater mode.

Alderman Deane

So you could almost permanently affix them and ..

Michael Mansfield

I could but if we did that you are running into maintenance issues and so forth that we probably wouldn't want to get into at this point with the sensors and so forth being utilized 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

Alderman Deane

Can't you shut them off?

Michael Mansfield

I could, but again you end up dealing with maintenance issues. The other thing that we are looking at as well is being able to set these up in other communities if necessary that we

currently serve – the other 18 contingent towns that our hazardous materials team responds to in gets funding from.

Alderman Deane

So the plan is to set them up and use them during major city events?

Michael Mansfield

That is correct.

Alderman Deane

So we are going to use them.

Michael Mansfield

They are interoperable with many of the other teams across the state so that if they have a major event where they need to use our systems they are certainly going to be afforded that and vice versa – if we need more units to cover the event that we are putting on here in the city they will afford us that opportunity as well.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Alderman Rootovich

Are we planning for some sort of attack? We are ordering tactical ballistic shields and preparing for hazardous materials detections... what prompted us to seek this equipment and want to purchase this equipment that has never been mentioned in the past?

Michael Mansfield

We have Homeland Security grants available with no match from the City of Nashua. This is technology that has just recently come out within the last 18 months. It has been field tested over the last 18 months to the point where the military has actually gone out and purchased this stuff because it is pretty efficient and very effective in dealing with the issues that they have been designed to deal with.

Alderman Tollner

By using this Homeland Security Grant money – I think it was about 2-3 weeks ago there was a situation at a school I think it was in Milford...

Michael Mansfield

It was actually in Wilton.

Alderman Tollner

In our trailer, I think I saw on TV our trailer was going over there.

Michael Mansfield

That is correct.

Alderman Tollner

So by accepting those grants we accepted the responsibility of assisting other communities during ...

Michael Mansfield

We have accepted responsibility to not only deal with hazardous materials incidents within the City of Nashua but also the other 18 contiguous towns that we have mutual aid agreements with.

Alderman Tollner

Would this particular item and equipment fall into that if say Wilton or Milford or someone called up and asked for .....

Michael Mansfield

Yes if the Hazardous Materials Response Team responds to a community these pieces of equipment would be on the piece of apparatus that would respond to that location.

Alderman Tollner

We do send out own personnel out there right?

Michael Mansfield

That is correct.

Alderman Tollner

The time that those people are spending in the different communities if the needs arises are we

reimbursed by those different towns and municipalities for the ...

Michael Mansfield

Most often than not we are reimbursed by the person who is responsible for whatever the problem they created was.

Alderman Tollner

Thank you.

Mayor Streeter

I think Alderman Vitale and I would hope that you attract such large crowds at Holman that you would be there almost on a nightly basis. Are there any further questions?

**MOTION CARRIED**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

HELD IN COMMITTEE

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SHAW TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE THE COMMUNICATION FROM JANICE TREMBLAY REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF A PIERCE ARROW XT PUMPER**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Rootovich

I would like to hear from the Chief since he wasn't here last time to explain to the committee his concessions he is going to make and the need for this vehicle, and anything else he wishes to bring to light with respect to this acquisition.

Mayor Streeter

We need to move it from the table.

**MOTION CARRIED**

From: Janice A. Tremblay, C.P.M., Purchasing Manager

Re: Purchase of Pierce Arrow XT Pumper Requested by Nashua Fire Rescue

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SHAW TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO PIERCE MANUFACTURING, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$377,625. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN ACCT. #599-68065-9861 (\$119,464.14); 532-68065-6701 (\$200,000); 532-64094-6701 (\$29,160.86); 532-64192-6701 (\$19,000); 532-64080-6701 (\$10,000)**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Rootovich

In his presentation, I would also like him to respond to the question why do we have to replace this particular engine other than it being on the replacement schedule? What are the other concerns or needs that you have at this time?

Roger Hatfield

First of all I want to make a clear statement that my plan like I have been doing for the last 15 years under Chief Navaroli and Chief Buxton is always to focus on master planning. Fire apparatus is one of the most important components to fire fighting next to the structural fire gear and breathing apparatus the fire fighters wear. When we look at our fleet we look at it as a very critical component to the safety and well being not just to my members and my folks that work at Nashua Fire Rescue, but also the citizens. When you look at fire trucks it is a lot more expensive for a fire truck than it is a cruiser or any other staff vehicles that we have out there. Eleven years ago we altered our master plan – this master plan has been in place for over 20 something years (a lot longer than I have been around), and we focused on how do we keep the fleet moving forward without it being at a critical part of where it could possibly break down, but also not impact the citizens or the taxes or our operational budget at a large scale one year at a time. We spread that cost out. Eleven years ago when we looked at Engine 6 it was \$200,000. Most fire engines throughout the whole region, throughout the United States, are running around \$400,000. That is 100% markup. This truck like Engine 3 and Engine 5 that are due to be replaced next year, are getting worn out by multiple calls. They are rusting out. We just had a hole bust open in the tank of Engine 6 this evening. We had a basic engine head blow on Engine 3 two weeks ago. These trucks are getting tired.

What the folks out there have to understand is that when we take these out as front line pieces and take them out they don't go away. We still have to keep them on the road for the next 3-4 years as our backup vehicles so when the truck is going in for preventative maintenance or if a truck breaks down we then take these used trucks to replace them so that we have trucks out there responding to calls and covering the city completely.

I take a lot of pride in what my truck committee and Assistant Chief Mike Mansfield has done on this truck. I knew months ago that we were going into an extremely tight budget in FY '07. Four months ago I told my committee let's start focusing on what we can do today so that I can try to do my best as the Chief and working with the Board of Fire Commissioners to come in at the lowest level budget for FY '07. They did that. They looked at how they can take components off

of that truck, how they could reduce the cost, and then we also looked at what other opportunities do we have out there to take some of those funds out of our operating budget to get this truck purchased so that I wouldn't have to come back to you in FY '07. Last year's budget was one of the most tight budgets I have ever seen in my career in 22 years with Nashua Fire Rescue. Out of all of the things that we reduced in FY '06 budget the one that stood there the longest and stood firm was our fire apparatus, and we all talked about it for many hours didn't we?

We cannot deviate on our master plan for trucks because it impacts us larger every year that we pass that by. The example – I had Chief Mansfield make this sheet for you so you can see the dominoe affect of what we are facing by bumping this truck down the road. I feel very confident to say that I doubt that the Board of Aldermen are going to approve any fire apparatus in the FY '07 budget knowing where we are going so you would be asking us to bump that truck to FY '08. That will put three fire apparatus for that year for replacement – three. That will run you somewhere in the area of \$1.3 million to \$1.4 million. We have never bonded fire trucks ever in this city. That is what you are basically going to do. We have the funds. We have worked hard with the CERF funds. We have worked hard with out operating budget to eliminate one truck that needs to be looked at and replaced.

I have a rusty tank that blew a hole; a truck that is due to be replaced next year blew an engine head. All of this stuff is running \$4,000 and \$5,000. We're getting close to that point where the diesel engines as you heard from the last time that Chief Mansfield was here discussing this truck, they are running around 300,000 running miles on that truck. I don't understand if we have master plans to try to save money why we don't follow those plans. We are working hard to meet your needs next year, and I really think that this committee has done well, and I can't understand why you wouldn't approve this truck.

Mayor Streeter

If I could just respond to one of your comments Chief Hatfield, if you think that the '06 budget was lean wait until you get to the '07 budget.

Roger Hatfield

Absolutely.

Mayor Streeter

We as elected representatives have to consider that. We also have to consider that there are other aspects of the '06 budget that we may have to re-open – one is petroleum and natural gas and gasoline. Again it is not going to get any better for the foreseeable future. I think there are many members of this Board who are concerned about that and they want to make certain that decisions made today are prudent, proper, and in the best interest of the taxpayers.

Roger Hatfield

I wholeheartedly agree with everything you just said Mayor. That is why four months ago I told this committee we know next year is going to be worse than 2006 – what can we do today to help us work with the city, the Mayor, and the Board of Aldermen knowing that 2007 is going to be a tighter year. Getting this truck out of the way is one of those ways of doing that. If we don't look at the fleet now we're going to a) increase our operating budget again where we have been picking away at it for all of these years and making it lower and lower – as you know only about 7-8% of our budget is operating. When you start looking at the 40 vehicles that we have, the fire apparatus that we have, and facilities that we have 7-8% of your operating budget it goes very quickly. We understand the situation the City of Nashua is in. We are taxpayers, we work here, we take a lot of pride in being members of this city. We're doing everything in our power to work with you, and this is a great answer for how do we help you with the FY '07 budget.

Mayor Streeter

I will end my comments with don't look for any increase in the operating budget for the fire department for next year.

Roger Hatfield

I wasn't planning on it.

Paul Garant

I would like to add to the Chief's comments if I may specifically to this one vehicle. The cost of the engine from the manufacturer is \$392,000+. We are being discounted \$15,000 if we do what we have done in the past and that is to purchase the engine outright upon order, which reduces the cost of acquisition for this piece of apparatus if it is purchased this year to \$377,000. We realize that is a lot of money, but we also realize that if we are going to be financially prudent as a fire commission and as a city we need to look at the cost of delaying the acquisition. The current price if we were to purchase it next year would probably be around \$392,000 plus about 3% for inflation, which would add another \$11,780 to the cost.

We would lose potentially the discount for pre-payment as the manufacturer may not offer that next year. In addition, we would see a 7% increase on the price of the truck due to the implementation of the federal emissions requirement, which does not apply to the vehicle if purchased this year. The cost of the truck if we delay acquisition could be \$486,000 or an additional \$66,000 to the taxpayers of the city by pushing off an acquisition for which the money has been budgeted.

This is like a snowplow – it looks good when we move the snow down the driveway, but the pile gets larger the further we go down.

Mayor Streeter

How many pumpers do you have now that are not in use or you have in so-called reserve?

Paul Garant

We are required to maintain two pumpers in reserve under the ISO requirements for the insurance rating – one for every three pumpers in service.

Roger Hatfield

I knew that this was going to be a question that you folks were going to ask – I will give you an example, with us blowing a hole in the Engine 6 tank, that truck will be out of service for two weeks. One of those reserve pieces will take that slot so the fire coverage in the Conant Road area while that truck is being repaired, but we still have to do preventive maintenance so the other one is still going in and out of every station in this city while we are servicing the other trucks on a daily basis.

Alderman Deane

I wanted to comment on a couple of items. The budget – I believe we helped you with your budget. The budget you submitted was \$14,417,000 and by the time the dust settled it was \$13,416,000. I find it rather ironic that all of a sudden this truck tank has a hole in it. I guess stranger things can happen. I am not going to support purchasing this truck regardless of the cost savings, the emissions – all that has been explained. I really think it is time for the departments to come up for a little air. We have to step back. It is not business as usual. There have been a lot of expenditures that have happened in the last 8-10 years and unfortunately I think we should start looking at maintaining what we own. I realize the deputy chief went through at our lat – I had some notes – at our last Finance meeting pertaining to the cost savings, the mileage on the vehicle, Engines 7 and 8, the standards for being frontline pieces of apparatus and things of that nature.

The vehicle was manufactured in 1993. The question I asked you today Chief was how were the depreciation parameters set on a fire truck and what parameters if any, since we constantly compare Nashua to other communities, do other communities use pertaining to depreciation on vehicles? Did you get an answer?

Roger Hatfield

Yes we did, and I will have Assistant Chief Mansfield give you those responses.

Michael Mansfield

In looking at it I can't give you a specific answer as to who came up with that. What I can tell

you is that was a decision that was made in previous administrations and with Finance as a result of doing an analysis as to how much we were actually looking to invest, re-invest into these pieces of apparatus over a certain period of time. As these pieces of apparatus age we have to re-invest money to maintain as you said what we already own. At some point it becomes not very prudent to continue to put money into these pieces of apparatus to just maintain them because we are going to find that we have to keep them even longer to try to realize the re-investment. That was a program that has not only been done with Nashua Fire Rescue, it is a program that has been done with DPW, a program that has been done with the Police Department – with every vehicle that is over \$25,000 it is covered under the current CERF program.

### Alderman Deane

But I go to the DPW they are down there welding cracked frames, replacing rotted frames, replacing engines in vehicles, and those vehicles get a lot more abuse than a fire truck. When you place a snow plow on the front of it, fill it up with fuel, and put 15 tons of salt and sand in the back and put it on the road for 16-18 hours there is some abuse. Scott Pollock has done an admirable job in keeping his fleet together, and yes there are some issues and we have retired some of the vehicles, but ..

I look at this vehicle – it is 12 years old and do you happen to have a maintenance log on the significant investments that we have made on this vehicle over the last 12 years other than oil and tires and brakes. Have we replaced the engine in it or the transmission?

### Michael Mansfield

This truck is currently ready for a major engine overhaul. In reference to ...

### Alderman Deane

Why is it ready for a major engine overhaul? Have we done compression tests? Is the motor failing? Do we have documentation of the motor failing?

### Roger Hatfield

I have my Superintendent of the fleet here. Just to back up a little bit. Alderman Deane had posed those questions to me earlier today. I called Scott Pollock. In regards to the welding, the repairs – from everything from an oil change to changing out an engine, a transmission, bodywork, rust work, we do the same thing in the Nashua Fire Rescue under the fleet maintenance program that Thomas Stepney runs. I also asked Scott Pollock how often does he change out a dump truck or a plow truck – it is every ten years. He uses the municipal benchmark format to determine when a truck should be changed out – every ten years.

It is amazing when we read through this they also talked about fire trucks – benchmark 15

years. When you look at the 12 years that we have it as a front line truck along with the 3-4 years that we have it as a reserve we are well over the 15 years. I have also followed up with Alderman Deane's comments with who he suggested, and that was the feedback I got today.

Alderman Deane

I know for a fact there are vehicles down there that are well beyond 10 years of age in the Street Department.

Roger Hatfield

You mentioned Scott Pollock's name. I called him and that was the response I got from Scott Pollock himself.

Alderman Deane

You look at the numbers on the side of the truck Roger – that is the year ..

Roger Hatfield

Alderman Deane that was who you asked me to talk to and that is who I talked to.

Alderman Deane

Where is your fleet mechanic – do you have compression testing data on this motor?

Thomas Stepney

It is a Detroit diesel sir. I will kindly do a compression test for you. Currently the motor uses approximately 3-6 quarts of oil every month, and when they start using that much oil and they are that close to 300,000 road miles on it they come apart. Engine 3 had less than that and we had dry rotted water grommets and we had two consistent oil sample reports that came back, which I do every three months.

Alderman Deane

We were told this vehicle had 93,000 miles on it.

Thomas Stepney

It does sir, but it also has close to 8,000 hours. When you have a vehicle that utilizes anything other than just driving around sir you have an hour meter. For every hour you have on that meter it is 35 road miles so if you take the 7,400 or 7,700 hours you have you have close to

300,000 road miles. That engine when it was designed was one that made – if you were driving it up and down like a truck driver over the road if you had 300,000 road miles before that thing blew up and you had to take it apart and fix it you were doing very good. Motors nowadays sir are up to half and the motor also that motor that we used to buy back with that was about a \$12,000 or \$13,000 engine. We now have motors that cost \$25,000. They will go 500,000 or 750,000 road miles.

Alderman Deane

So it is \$25,000 for the motor installed?

Thomas Stepney

No that is \$25,000 sir because of the EPA – these motors now have to have catalytic converters, there is electronic fuel injection so they don't put out white smoke, etc.

Alderman Deane

What would it cost to put a new motor in that vehicle?

Thomas Stepney

We cannot get that motor. That motor does not pass EPA anymore so to try and find one is a miracle. About 5 years ago we had to rebuild the engine in Ladder 3, which is now our Ladder 4, our spare truck, we could not find a motor. It was going to be 16 weeks to get one. That motor cost us about \$13,000 rebuilt.

Alderman Deane

So about \$13,000 to rebuild the engine?

Thomas Stepney

-  
No not to do an in frame sir. An in frame basically you take the motor apart and you replace the pistons, liners, rings, bearings, any other components you see, you put the motor back together, and that motor should be good until that truck goes to the bone yard.

Alderman Deane

What is the total cost to get that motor rebuilt?

Thomas Stepney

By me or if I were to send it out somewhere?

Alderman Deane

Will you be available to do it?

Thomas Stepney

Yes sir. I would probably do it myself. I was the one who just did Engine 3.

Alderman Deane

What would the cost be?

Thomas Stepney

I am going to wing it off the top of my head sir and just to do an in frame me for parts we are probably talking about \$6,000. If you sent that motor out you could be spending in the \$8,000 - \$9,000 because of labor rates. Labor rates are about 100 an hour when you start shipping diesel engines out.

Alderman Deane

So with your labor and benefits and everything we could figure about \$10,000?

Thomas Stepney

I imagine whatever the amount of labor is – I don't know.

Alderman Deane

So it would cost \$10,000 to ... thank you.

Thomas Stepney

You were asking some questions. When these trucks start to get around 5 years old you start getting a lot of holes in the frames so we set a policy over three years ago that the trucks come in the shop every three months for maintenance. They get an oil change, tires moved, breaks adjusted, lights all checked, everything that is on the fire fighters list we do our best to take care of. Every six months I have a gentleman go up and down the frame. Anything under the truck and they use what is called a scale ... **tape inaudible – speaker away from microphone** ... came off of our Engine 5, which is our 1995, which is the next one that this committee will be in front of you talking about. Every 6 months after they get 5 years old we do this. There are some areas that this stuff continues to come off in the same area. Manufacturer makes the frame somewhere around ... **tape inaudible – speaker away from microphone**... that is only a

portion of what is on the floor today off of Engine 5.

Alderman Deane

Off the entire frame?

Thomas Stepney

Off of areas of the frame sir. Anywhere a bolthole goes through a frame after 3-4 years after it moves it starts to make bubbles. ... **tape inaudible** ... shackle areas, steering box mount – what we do is chisel it off, prime it, and repaint it. We do that every 6 months. When you start talking about why do you have to replace it that frame started out this thick – I keep chiseling the stuff off because it is rusted and falls off. You can't stop rust and rot. Once it starts you either cut it out or replace the item. Say you have a rusted door – you are sitting in your driveway and you ground it down and put a little bondo and it comes back in a year or two. To really do it you need to replace that item or you keep pampering it like we ... **tape flipped** ...

That truck came in in 1993. By the time the new one comes in it will be November of '06 sir so that is what close to 15 years right there? Then it is going to become a reserve piece for probably anywhere for 2-3 or 3-4 years. As the Chief said to answer your question about how the water leaks suddenly, that tank has been leaking for 5 months. We have documentation of it. We keep pampering it and you pamper it – well today as Engine 6 was coming down the highway from a call at Royal Crest it smoked the front brake caliper from our famous road salt because they have disc brakes. That truck is in the shop now. While it is in the shop I am going to pull the water tank out and see what we can do to either repair it or we might have to come and ask the Chief for \$5,000 to replace it to allow that truck to go another 4-5 years sir.

Alderman Deane

That would be great.

Thomas Stepney

When you come down to it this truck really isn't going away. We do need the replacement. I haven't seen the bag come back over here, but please look at this. This is rust and rot. If anyone ever wants to come to the shop and see what I am talking about you are more than welcome to. I can point out this stuff. You can clearly see it. You ask about DPW they do the same. DPW comes in and they start their trucks they are ... **tape inaudible** ... that truck is whipped. It is driven safely, but it is whipped to get to a call. The first thing that thing breaths as it goes 100 feet out the door is 35 degrees below zero air instantly. It has the worst life in the world. ... **tape inaudible – speaker away from microphone**. There are some costs that are going to come up next year and in order to keep that truck running for another 3-5 years and we just have to do it.

Alderman Deane

You are carrying a significant fund balance for maintenance of your motor vehicle repairs and maintenance you are carrying \$89,000 in your 78 account and then in your – what was the other account that was being used – your 64 account you are carrying \$123,800. You have a couple hundred thousand dollars that ...

Thomas Stepney

That is basically designed as maintenance for tires, oil, and filters. If I start getting into water tanks and motors – a brake job I am going to be stuck – just so people understand – if I do all four wheels it is approximately \$2,000 just to do brakes. A set of tires is \$2,000. If you were to send this out it would be – I get discounts big time because I am a municipality. You are paying my labor rate not \$100 an hour labor rate. It benefits the ... **tape inaudible...** If we don't order that truck right now we don't get it until – you are moving this front line piece and like I said this is what we do. My maintenance account is strictly maintenance.

Alderman Deane

They are proposing to take \$60,000 of your maintenance account to purchase a new vehicle with.

Thomas Stepney

Of the 78 account?

Alderman Deane

Of a combination of fire apparatus equipment, miscellaneous equipment, and emergency rescue equipment.

Thomas Stepney

I don't believe that is the 78 account.

Alderman Deane

That is the 64 account. What value could we get for \$60,000 of work on Engine 6? If you looked at all of the deficiencies that truck has now – just a roundabout number – what do you think it would cost to take care of those deficiencies?

Thomas Stepney

I believe Chief Mansfield already – next year ... **tape inaudible** ...

Alderman Deane

Does that include the water tank? So that is the water tank, the motor, the new engine...

Michael Mansfield

It includes the water tank, engine overhaul, body repair, six doors, brakes, paint, etc. When I last spoke to this committee on December 1<sup>st</sup> I did also indicate that we knew that the water tank was ready to go.

Alderman Deane

I don't remember that. If that is what you stated to us then ...

Michael Mansfield

I had it right on the list the same paper I had with me on December 1<sup>st</sup> that Superintendent Stepney gave me, and I have number one on the list Alderman Deane is water tank for \$4,900 approximately.

Alderman Deane

On the list you gave to the Finance Committee?

Michael Mansfield

On the list that I have when you asked what this truck was going to need in the near future for repairs just to keep it road worthy – that was on the top of the list. We have known that this water tank had been leaking for the last 5-6 months and like we have said because it has been due for replacement we didn't want to put the additional funds into it if it was going to be replaced. We certainly knew it was leaking we just didn't know how much time we could get with it the way it is.

Alderman Deane

But the engine would become a second line piece correct?

Michael Mansfield

There is a probability of that. Certainly with the way that the apparatus is showing wear that we currently have allow the mechanical staff to take a look at what we already have currently in reserve and what we have going into reserve as that dominoe affect as I last explained and let

them decide based upon what funds would need to be put into each vehicle to maintain it in service and what was going to provide us with the most serviceability life and get rid of the one that was going to have the least serviceability life regardless of whether it was the newest one going into reserve or the oldest one in reserve.

Alderman Deane

So what is it then?

Michael Mansfield

Right now I can't tell you exactly because they haven't done that survey.

Alderman Deane

You must know right?

Thomas Stepney

**... tape inaudible – speaker away from microphone ...**

Michael Mansfield

One of the other questions that was posed the last time we met on December 1<sup>st</sup> was what are other area fire departments utilizing for replacement schedule. I contacted District Chief Nick Campasano from the Manchester Fire Department this afternoon. He was able to get back to me at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, and he told me that they are on the same replacement schedule as the City of Nashua is on – 12 years for an engine, 15 years for an aerial ladder. I contacted Deputy Chief Sean Mitchell from the Concord Fire Department. He got back to me by fax this afternoon. He said currently engines spend 6-7 years frontline and 6-7 reserve. A ladder spends 8 years front line and 7 years reserve. If you total that all up in Concord they are spending less years in front line and more years on reserve, but they come out with a total end result. You are basically looking at 12-13 years total life and you are looking at 15 years total life for a ladder in Concord.

We can go on and on.

Alderman Deane

Are they sticking to their replacement schedule?

Michael Mansfield

They are sticking to their replacement schedule.

Alderman Deane

Both Manchester and Concord?

Michael Mansfield

Yes sir.

Alderman Deane

I have heard enough. Thank you Mayor.

Alderman Rootovich

I am kind of hearing two different concerns from my colleagues. I am hearing that one is questioning whether the vehicle needs to be replaced and if it is not replaced is it cheaper to consider the additional maintenance costs to keep the vehicle going and then I am hearing another issue with respect to the funding mechanism where it will take \$60,000 out of the operating budget, which from my understanding of CERF is that if it is a like spending there is no need for CERF to approve it, but if we were to move it from one line item to the next it would take CERF's approval. There are 18 other line items in this particular division, which we could look for funds if we don't want to touch the operating budget. I don't know which way the committee is going with respect to what the concerns are. I am trying to be reasonable and understand what we are trying to do here.

I would like to understand first of all if this committee does not approve this this evening the Chief has stated that in FY '08 we are looking at about a \$1.2 million expenditure with respect to replacing three engines based on testimony given here specifically listening to the Superintendent of Maintenance. I would like to hear from the committee what we plan on doing to bond for that \$1.2 million and end up paying probably \$2.4 to \$2.5 million with the interest costs. To me again being a reasonable individual, and I was the one at the last minute who voted against it, but I did say that I would be willing to listen if I had more documentation and information brought forward to me – I have spent some time with the Chief on the phone this week discussing this. Again trying to be a reasonable individual – you all know where I stand on spending and bonding and things of that nature, but to me being a rational individual it does not seem what he is requesting to be unreasonable. He is willing to postpone two engine purchases next year. He has indicated the Superintendent of the Fleet has indicated the concerns he has not only with the mileage but he makes a great point that the vehicles are also not just the actual driving mileage but the use of the equipment on there the pumps and the other areas of the vehicle.

If the committee has a concern with the funding mechanism I think we can look at not touching the operating budget and moving some of those line items around in the CERF and if it is not the

funding mechanism just the fact that you don't want to buy a truck because we are trying to make a statement and we have given the fire department enough and all that I think it is a separate issue. To me again trying to be reasonable I don't think it is an unreasonable request. We always talk about compromise. The Chief again has told us that he is going to put off the other two purchases. If anybody here in this committee can tell me what we are going to do in two years with respect to bonding \$1.25 million to replace three vehicles I would like to hear some answers on that.

### Alderman Vitale

I listened to everything said. I was comfortable with the vote I placed last time. I basically understood everything said last time and you just went into more detail this time that I pretty much understood back in the beginning. The years that you have put down the 12 and 15 years as was indicated on that report, I imagine that as the quality of vehicles has improved or not improved that those years are looked at and it is not something that one year you can say it is 13 years and one year you can say it is 12 years. You have to come up with a budgeting mechanism so it is consistent and you can plan toward, and it will be something that would be predictable for the department. I think that is what we are always asking our division directors to do is to come up with a plan that we can work on and that we can budget for. If we start deviating from that plan then I wonder why we even ask our division directors to go through the process if we do not follow the plan. I imagine that every so often; 10 or 15 years as the way that vehicles are built those numbers might change because maybe the engines last longer ten years down the road so that number might change by a year or so. I know it used to be that you would think that your vehicle got to 100,000 and the life is gone. Now you are hearing people say 300,000 miles is the typical life on a vehicle. I would imagine that is the same for a fire vehicle.

### Michael Mansfield

I personally feel that with the mechanical division that we have and the staff within that division, we have one of the most aggressive preventative maintenance programs anywhere in the state as far as the fire apparatus fleet is concerned. The thing that we are up against, and I very much appreciate your comments Alderman Vitale in reference to the apparatus and the age and so forth, but the main thing that we are also up against not only with the age of the apparatus itself and the safety of the apparatus and reliability of the apparatus is the National Fire Protection Association. Every five years they come out with a new standard on fire apparatus. The current standard right now that we are operating under in which the manufacturers are held to is the 2003 edition. As we are well aware we are in the age of technology and have been for the last couple of decades. As technology increases there is more burden placed on the manufacturers to build that technology into this apparatus, to make it safer, to make it more reliable, and hopefully to make it last a little bit longer.

Unfortunately that may not always be the case, but if we can get another year out of a piece of

apparatus that is certainly what we are trying to do, and we're taking every step possible to see that occurs. Again with the stress that these vehicles are put under in the response that they are placed within, sometimes the 12 years may be stretched to 13, but other than that we can't see it going much more than that nor can many of the other fire communities around us as well. Every fire department administrator that I have spoken with about this is either in the process of purchasing fire apparatus because it is so far out of date and doesn't meet standard or its reliability has decreased so much that they can't allow it out the door because of its safety issues or they are looking to reduce the number of years that their pieces of apparatus are actually going to be maintained and serviced as a front line. We are well within the standard for everybody around us. It is a catch 22 and we realize that.

### Mayor Streeter

To respond to your comments Alderman Vitale that plans are great, but sometimes plans have to change because of extenuating circumstances.

### Alderman Deane

That is a very good point Mayor. I was going to make that as well. We really have to step back and take a good hard look at what we own and what it is going to cost to maintain it. As the Mayor just stated, it is nice to stick to the plan, but this is a significant purchase and as far as the bonding of two trucks next year I have no interest in bonding anything. I think we should be looking at maintaining and repairing what we own to get more life out of it. Regardless of the bags of scale and things of that nature as Deputy Chief Mansfield had stated and this fellow here is living proof that we have a very talented division that maintains our fire equipment and I think that is where the focus has to be in maintaining and preserving what we own to try to get a little more life out of it.

I said it earlier; I cannot support this type of expenditure at this time. I do realize there are two other pieces and there were promises made that they won't be brought forward next year – well I think the chances of those two vehicles being purchased next year are slim and none to begin with so that is not much of a promise because I think it is understood what the chances were for those two pieces being purchased. We just bought a vehicle I believe last year didn't we? Didn't we buy a brand new truck last year and that was Ladder 3 and how much did that cost \$600,000 some odd?

### Michael Mansfield

It was \$629,924 Alderman Deane.

### Alderman Deane

I really think we should go back and revisit this. It is nice to replace to new, but at the current time I think we kind of have to regroup as a community and work together with everyone and

start to fix and maintain and try to get a little more life out of these vehicles. I do realize it is going to cost money, but I don't think it is going to cost \$377,000 to get this vehicle up to snuff as was stated earlier around \$27,000 or so they have anticipated for bringing it back to life. I really think that is what we should be doing.

### Mayor Streeter

Are there any further questions from members of the Finance Committee?

### Roger Hatfield

I would like to respond to Aldermen Deane. I wholeheartedly agree with a lot of the things Alderman Deane said in regards to trying to keep our fleet maintained, and as I look over there at Alderman Tollner that is our Liaison that was at our meeting last week. I expressed to the Board of Fire Commissioners exactly where I saw us all having to go. They were not jumping to be on my side about holding off on coming forth with Engines 3 and 5 for next year. They were very hesitant about it, but I was able to get them to see the importance of working with the Aldermen to try to work towards where are we going to go, if we don't take any steps towards Engine 6, where are we going to go in FY '08 when we have 3 trucks that are desperately in need of replacement. I have also told my mechanical fleet and the committee that if we go forward and are able to move with Engine 6 they are going to have to spend more time and effort to keeping 3 and 5 that are due for replacement next year going the distance into FY '08. That has actually already been discussed multiple times.

I guess the question is master planning is to look at saving costs. I know we are in tough times. The Board of Fire Commissioners know we are in tough times. The funds are there. We are not bonding any, we are not asking for any additional funds, and we are looking at the future with a very open eye. If we are not going in the right direction then what direction does the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen want us to focus on? I am under the impression that we need to go into looking at a level funded budget for FY '07 from the Mayor's staff meetings and all of my conversations with the Board of Aldermen and from our Liaison Aldermen Tollner – level funded. We are working towards that now. We are not going to wait until 2007's budget has to come in front of you. We have the funds, it eliminates this truck from being on the plate, and we focus on pushing engines 3 and 5 away from FY '07 to future dates. If that is not the direction I still haven't heard anybody tell me are you willing to bond for 3 trucks in the future. I don't think we have ever done that.

### Mayor Streeter

Let me just respond to one statement you made, and that is you mentioned several times Chief level funding. I am not going to indicate today what the Mayor's budget strategy is, but it is level funding or below.

Alderman Deane

The Chief just asked for some direction, and I thought I had made some recommendations. Why don't we maintain what we own – focus in that area. That is my recommendation. I know you don't want to hear it, but you seem stymied by the fact that now your mentioning bonding to purchase three fire trucks. Alderman Rootovich had asked that question. I have no interest in doing that. What I would like to better understand is why can't we get on an aggressive schedule to go through these vehicles and maintain what we own? That is my recommendation.

Alderman Rootovich

Let me re-phrase the question. I might be asking what we are planning for bonding – what are we planning then to do three years from now to address the replacement of these vehicles and other vehicles in the city? We are not in the soup this year in the budget because of money that we have taken out of the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund, we are in the soup because of additional headcount over the last ten years, increased labor contracts, and our bonding. Those are the three major elements why we are in the soup. This is money set aside in CERF because we are trying to follow a reasonable plan. It is reasonable. Am I happy with it absolutely not, but it seems to me again when you are willing to push off a couple of vehicle purchase it is a reasonable request.

I have gone back and forth with the Chief. I met with him in his office and I told him exactly where I stood on labor costs and headcount. I was very open with him. Again I am looking at this as running a business and a business entity. The money is in the CERF account. What you are essentially saying other than the \$60,000 you are saying let's not touch the CERF account. If we are not going to touch the CERF account that is fine, but what is the plan of this committee or the Board in fact – what do we plan on doing to replace these vehicles in this division as well as other divisions if we don't use the CERF money. There is only a certain amount of time you can keep maintaining a vehicle.

Alderman Deane

Alderman Rootovich if you go to the communication from Janice Tremblay, out of this \$377,000+ only \$119,000 is from CERF.

Alderman Rootovich

That is why I said if you want to take all the money from CERF I have no problem with that.

Alderman Deane

I am just telling you the rest of the money, the \$260,000 + is from the operating budget.

Alderman Rootovich

I understand that.

Alderman Deane

Well that is not what you just said you said it was from CERF. Only \$119,000 is from CERF.

Alderman Rootovich

I select my words very carefully Alderman Deane.

Alderman Deane

I am trying to understand where you were going with that because the CERF account as we all know has not been funded appropriately for a number of years...

Alderman Rootovich

For the last 12 years it has not. We should be putting in about a million dollars a year. We are not even close to it.

Alderman Deane

There is another problem that we can add to the bonding and everything else that you had mentioned earlier. My recommendation – you asked for recommendations – my recommendation is to thoroughly go through these vehicles and flush out the issues and repair the problems and get some more mileage out of them in lieu of spending \$1.2 million.

Alderman Rootovich

At what point do we start looking at – three years from now if we maintain these vehicles...

Alderman Deane

I think at that point in time depending on – I am sure if we can get more mileage out of them then we should look at getting back to the replacement schedule probably Engine 6 in like 2009.

Mayor Streeter

Let's get back to questions and comments from the committee.

Alderman Tollner

The Assistant Chief has one question – I will yield to him...

### Mayor Streeter

I am calling on you Alderman Tollner because every time someone makes a statement someone wants to make a counter-statement. We have devoted a great deal of time to this issue and at some point we are going to call for a vote. I want to give each member of the committee adequate time to pose questions. I think we all know what the answers are going to be from the officials of the Fire Rescue Service.

### Alderman Tollner

I said to the Fire Chiefs and Commissioners last week that I wasn't going to support the purchase of this fire truck. I still feel the same way at this time. I haven't changed my mind. In saying that however I think what the Chief and the Assistant Chief and some of the Fire Commissioners have done is exactly what we have asked them to do in the past. That is I think we have been very clear that we do not want to now or a year or three years from now to bond the purchase of these fire trucks. I understand that we set up a master plan. I think we spoke about this a little earlier. A Master Plan is set up and a Master Plan has been set up for the purchase of these vehicles I think since I have been on the Board. I think right now it is very clear to everybody that we are in difficult times as a city as far as our finances, and we have great demands not just from the fire, but from the schools, other city services, and the police department.

This is one time where I think that the Fire Department has done everything that we have asked and it would be a lot easier for me to say yes I think we should go ahead and purchase this. I just think that this is a big ticket item right now and we need to step back for a little while and re-address how we are going to go forward with our replacements. It absolutely is going to cost us money to fix these vehicles. There is no doubt about it. I think when we are dealing with stuff like this, and we don't have an idea of what next year's budget is going to look like, but we have a couple of pumpers in reserve right now. We are taking a significant amount of money out of the operating budget.

I am also not so sure that if we were to purchase this vehicle next year – I think some figures were yes there is a little discount right now if we purchase it before the end of the year, but I don't think anybody can say what the manufacturer will be telling us this time next year. I want to be reasonable and say it may be more money next year than it is now, and that is usually how things work. I will say that when I communicated my decision to the Fire Chief and the Commissioners I did it to their face, and it wasn't an easy thing to do. In looking at all of these vehicles here on this list, I can't remember the last time when either the fire or police came before the Board of Aldermen and we said hey listen we need to wait a little while. I don't think anybody can answer Alderman Rootovich's question – heck two years from now are we going to bond when we have to purchase 2-3 fire trucks if we wait. I can tell you that no I am not interested in bonding 2-3 years from now. I think the public has been very clear over the

concerns and the amounts of what we bonded. I think for the most part what we have bonded to date is appropriate.

However, again like I said I think we need to go back and look at the replacement schedule and look at these truck. Not just the fire trucks. I have on this list 7 vehicles that are probably total in value between \$200,000 - \$230,000 that we have right now; a number of explorers and things like that. Maybe when we go back and look at the replacement schedule we choose a little different vehicle and that will provide us an opportunity to purchase an engine down the road. That is not to say as we are finishing up our budget next year and we look at where our budget is next year in the spring and as we move into the summer that we don't take another look at this. Right now I just can't support the purchase of this vehicle.

Alderman Rootovich

Big ticket item – we spent a lot of money this evening. In the hour and a half prior we spent \$635,000.

Alderman Tollner

On totally different items.

Alderman Rootovich

I understand.

Alderman Tollner

That is on the absolute operation of the city and two of those items were supporting the Fire Department.

Alderman Rootovich

I understand.

Mayor Streeter

Chief do you or Commissioner or the Assistant Chief wish to respond?

Roger Hatfield

I can only say one thing – I still haven't found any direction except for make it last longer. I still haven't heard anybody tell me in three years when these trucks have been maintained and maintained and maintained how do we plan on replacing them. I am very proud of the

mechanical fleet department that keeps these trucks going. They are front line pieces. When they break down and they don't make it to the fire or they don't make it to the emergency because we over-pushed their life – I still have not heard what are your plans for replacement of these trucks in the future. I haven't heard that. I know that the Board of Fire Commissioners and myself will be waiting to find that out. I have heard a lot of people saying it is not time – that is fine. I think that we have done very, very well, and I appreciate everybody's support. We have worked very well together in the past. I still haven't gotten any direction, and I hope down the road you guys can tell me where that direction is going to come from.

Mayor Streeter

Are we ready for the question?

*A Viva Voce Roll Call was requested, which resulted as follows:*

Yea: Alderman Rootovich, Alderman Vitale, Alderman Shaw

3

Nay: Mayor Streeter, Alderman Deane, Alderman Tollner, Alderman Dion

4

## **MOTION FAILED**

## WARRANT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SHAW TO APPROVE WARRANT #11 IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$8,575,107.69 OF WHICH \$2,522,028.86 ARE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, \$4,716,716.61 ARE PAYROLL AMOUNTS, \$28,500.00 ARE PREPAY AMOUNTS AND \$1,307,862.22 ARE WIRE TRANSFERS**

## **MOTION CARRIED**

## DISCUSSION

## NON-PUBLIC SESSION

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SHAW THAT THE COMMITTEE GO INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION BY ROLL CALL PURSUANT TO RSA 91-A:3,II(e) TO DISCUSS SETTLEMENT OF TWO GENERAL LIABILITY CLAIMS  
SECONDED BY ALDERMAN DEANE**

A viva voce roll call vote was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Mayor Streeter, Alderman Rootovich, Alderman Deane, Alderman Tollner,  
Alderman Dion, Alderman Vitale, Alderman Shaw

7

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

The Finance Committee went into non-public session at 8:38 p.m.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SHAW THAT THE COMMITTEE SEAL THE MINUTES OF THE  
NON-PUBLIC SESSION BY ROLL CALL UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE MAJORITY OF THE  
BOARD VOTES THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY WOULD NO LONGER  
BE SERVED**

**SECONDED BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER**

A viva voce roll call vote was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Mayor Streeter, Alderman Rootovich, Alderman Tollner, Alderman Dion,  
Alderman Vitale, Alderman Shaw

6

Nay: Alderman Deane 1

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SHAW TO COME OUT OF THE NON-PUBLIC SESSION AND  
RETURN TO THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER**

A viva voce roll call vote was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Mayor Streeter, Alderman Rootovich, Alderman Deane, Alderman Tollner,  
Alderman Dion, Alderman Vitale, Alderman Shaw

7

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

The Finance Committee returned to its regular meeting at 8:53 p.m.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DEANE TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION BY RISK MANAGEMENT TO SETTLE THE GENERAL LIABILITY CLAIMS IN THE AMOUNT OF SEVENTY SIX THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY THREE DOLLARS AND THIRTY EIGHT CENTS (\$76,373.38)**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

## ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DION TO ADJOURN**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

The Finance Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Alderman Robert Shaw  
Committee Clerk