

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. A(3)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT MEETING DATE: December 6, 2005

TITLE: A Request to Award the Bid and Execute Contract for the Purchase of a 2006 Fire Pumper Truck

DEPARTMENT: Fire	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO <u>x</u>
ATTACHMENTS: A: Resolution	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Deputy Fire Chief, Travis Crabtree - 918-7349 Patrick Childs, Budget and Purchasing Administrator, 918-7301

PURPOSE

The purpose of this agenda item is to authorize the purchase of a new Fire Pumper truck including the full compliment of firefighting equipment for the Fire Department. Staff would have brought this request to the Board on January 10th, but the low bidder's price is only firm for 30 days. A cost increase is anticipated in December.

INFORMATION

Requests for Bids were published in area newspapers and sent out to 35 companies in October 2005. The bids were publicly opened and read aloud on November 28, 2005. Three (3) companies responded to the Town's request for bids. These companies are Ferrara, Elite and C.W. Williams. After careful review of all responses, it is the recommendation of the Fire Department that the Board of Aldermen award the bid to Elite Fire Apparatus and authorize the Town Manager to enter into a contract for the amount of \$368,189.00.

<u>Name of Vendor</u>	<u>Price</u>
Elite Fire Apparatus	\$368,189
Ferrara	\$399,718
C.W. Williams	\$432,886

Although the Elite Fire Apparatus bid is \$7,677 more than the \$360,512 appropriated in the FY2005-06 Adopted Budget, it is the lowest bid received by the Town. As you can see in the above table, the other bids are considerably higher. The Fire Department believes that the winning bid more closely meets the specifications requested in the bid documents. For instance, one of the key items that the Fire Department desires is service after the purchase, and Elite Fire Apparatus offers three (3) mobile service technicians in the field to help provide a wide range of services including 24-hour emergency repairs.

The bid specifications request an apparatus that will provide the Town of Carrboro with a piece of life safety equipment that is critical to the protection of its citizens for a minimum of 20 years. This apparatus meets the minimum Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards to better protect our firefighters in the event

of a crash and to ensure the safe arrival of the Fire Department to an emergency scene. This is significant since 30 percent of annual firefighter deaths occur when responding to and returning from incidents.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost of the Fire Pumper is \$368,189, exceeding the budgeted estimate of \$360,512 that would need to be borrowed to purchase the truck. This means the Town may need to borrow an additional \$7,677 and pay a slightly higher debt service payment over a five-year period. Also, the Town will have to pay \$1,000 to cover the state highway use tax. However, other vehicles and equipment to be financed may come in lower and the Town may not need to borrow as much. Staff will not know that until later in the year in May 2006 when the bulk of capital items have been purchased and the items are actually financed. At worst case scenario, borrowing an additional \$8,677 at 5 percent would equate to about \$1,900 per year over a five-year period which is relatively marginal for a piece of equipment with an expected service life of approximately 20 years.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Board is requested to award the bid to Elite Fire Apparatus and to authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract for the purchase of the Fire Pumper requested by the Fire Department