



## MEMORANDUM

**TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council**

**FROM: Suzanne Sherman, City Manager**

**THRU: Richard Stover, Fire Chief**

**DATE: August 1, 2024**

**RE: Authorization to utilize impact fees for purchasing Fire emergency vehicles  
(AGENDA REVISION)**

### **SUMMARY:**

Fire Rescue requests approval to utilize the North Carolina Sheriff's Association contract for Fire/EMS/Law Enforcement Specialty Vehicle Procurement Program, #25-02-0521, as awarded to Acela, Inc. to provide emergency vehicles. This contract is valid through June 17, 2025. Utilizing this contract provides the City with another opportunity to make emergency vehicle purchases as needed. Fire Rescue would like to purchase one (1) tender and three (3) High Water Mod Units in the amount of \$1,700,000. Funding for the vehicles for Fire Rescue is contained in the request below. Staff reviewed multiple contracts and determined that the North Carolina Sheriff's Association contract best meets the specifications needed for the requested vehicles.

Fire Rescue further requests approval to utilize the NPPGov National Buying Cooperative contract, of which the lead agency is League of Oregon Cities, for Fire/EMS/Law Enforcement Specialty Vehicle Procurement Program, Contract No. PS20225, as awarded to Fout Bros company, to provide emergency vehicles. This contract is valid through May 6, 2026. Utilizing this contract provides the City with another opportunity to make emergency vehicle purchases as needed. Fire Rescue would like to purchase five (5) squad vehicles in the amount of \$2,675,000. (Funding for the vehicles for Fire Rescue is contained in the request below.) These vehicles will be Ford F-550 Chassis that are outfitted with the storage space and emergency equipment needed to respond to emergency calls for service. This chassis option offers a payload of 10,520 pounds, which is 1,550 pounds higher than the F-450 chassis. Staff has completed a considerable amount of market research, reviewed multiple other agencies' vehicles and experiences, as well as manufacturer specifications to find the vehicles that best fit the needs of the City of Palm Bay Fire Rescue. Specifications such as compartment size, vehicle size, weight capacity and shelf/slide-out designs make this vehicle best suited for the heavy use that is expected. These specifications offer more room and design features that offer better safety, lifting/moving ergonomics and storage space to prevent damage of equipment. The vendor for this vehicle offers the potential for faster delivery times due to

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manufacturer operations and availability of vehicle chassis. These vehicles will also arrive in the city as “turn-key” as the vendor will be installing the necessary equipment and mounts at the factory. Staff reviewed multiple contracts and determined that the NPPGov National Buying Cooperative contract best meets the specifications needed for the requested vehicles.

Fire Rescue and Public Works further request approval to utilize the State of Georgia Department of Administrative Services contract No. 99999-SPD-ES40199373-005 (Vehicles, Administrative (Regular and Alternatively Fueled), as awarded to Hardy Chevrolet Buick GMC, Inc. to provide vehicles. This contract is valid through November 30, 2024. Utilizing this contract provides the City with another opportunity to make vehicle purchases as needed. Funding for (4) additional vehicles for Fire Rescue is contained in the request below. Staff reviewed multiple contracts and determined that the State of Georgia contract best meets the specifications needed for the requested vehicles. Due to the current market conditions and limited supply of vehicles, Staff requests approval to utilize this Contract for future Piggyback purchases through FY23-24.

In accordance with the City’s Code of Ordinance, Section 38.13(F)(4) Cooperative Purchases and Piggyback Purchases: The City may purchase from any cooperative contract, including but not limited to: term contracts by the State of Florida, Federal General Services Administration, and other governmental cooperatives and entities within and outside the State of Florida provided that the cooperative contract is established in compliance with the procurement procedures and requirements of the issuing body, entity, authority, or cooperative. If such other governmental or cooperative contract is utilized, the public notice requirements and the need to utilize the methods of selection processes are obviated. Any such contracts equal to or in excess of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) shall go to the City Council for approval.

Fire Rescue is further requesting the use of Fire Impact fees for vehicles and equipment totaling \$6,074,066.

Chapter 171 of the Palm Bay Code of Ordinances provides that Fire Impact fees, and all interest accrued on such funds, shall only be used for capital fire facilities and equipment within the City. Capital fire facilities are defined as: “fire facilities planning and any land, land improvements, building and fire equipment (vehicles and manpower equipment) and associated costs.” The fees may be expended on these items from time to time when deemed necessary to provide fire protection to areas of new construction.

The requested vehicles/equipment are as follows:

Tender - Fire Rescue is requesting the use of Fire Impact Fees in the amount of \$425,000 to fund a water tender for the growing southeastern area identified for a fire station. (Nexus 32909). The

estimate for the Tender includes a contingency to cover potential cost inflation and all necessary equipment for both capabilities and modes for operations. Any savings will be returned to the impact fee fund.

The impact of the continual and future growth of all Nexus in the City of Palm Bay justifies the need and usage of Fire Impact fees. The Water Tender is a critical apparatus that is needed to provide a sustainable water supply in the absence of municipal water systems and fire hydrants typically used for firefighting and fire protection purposes. The southeastern area located in the vicinity of Babcock St SE and St. Johns Heritage Pkwy is currently considered as a suitable site for a fire station due to the high amount of growth. The Water Tender is also a needed piece of equipment that will enhance the fire department's Insurance Services Office (ISO) points by reducing the Fire Suppression Rating within the boundaries of all Nexus and the City as a whole. Palm Bay has experienced a 7% growth since January 2023, and with growth being focused throughout all Nexus for the foreseeable future, this growth impacts the services provided by Fire Rescue, particularly with water supply for firefighting. As Palm Bay continues to be developed, the need increases for water supply methods until such time as hydrant infrastructure is installed in accordance with sufficient fire protection requirements. Improvements that provide for the safety of all residents in the city are the goal of Palm Bay Fire Rescue.

As of 4/5/2024, there are 139,117 residents in Palm Bay. This is a 2.8% increase from April 2023. This growth in population impacts the services provided by Fire Rescue. Continued growth equates to a need for increased training to ensure tactical skills and development are attained to accommodate efficient and safe operations on an emergency scene. This leads to a better quality of survival for the residents. Response statistical data as it relates to Fire Rescue, taken from ESO reports, analyzed fire incident responses that required a tender response from 1/1/2021 to 12/31/2023 and show there was an increase in responses for each of the city's three tenders. There was a 5% increase in tender responses throughout the above referenced time frame. There was an 8% increase in Wildland Fire Incidents from 1/1/2021 to 12/31/2023. An increase in service demand is an impact on services.

Wildland fire incidents are the critical emergencies that warrant a water tender response due to the complications involved in obtaining and sustaining an adequate water supply over a geographic area. The water tender has mobile capabilities that enable its usefulness in moving around blocks and large areas of wildland/urban interface locations. This unit would be new to Palm Bay Fire Rescue's response deployment in the southern areas.

High Water/Mod Units - Fire Rescue is requesting the use of Fire Impact Fees in the amount of \$1,275,000 to fund three (3) new multi-use vehicles that have capabilities for both High Water Rescue events and modification to operate at Wildland Fire Incidents. Two (2) vehicles to be used in both Nexus 32907 and 32908. The percentage of Impact Fee usage was divided using the

perspective unit and their anticipated usage within each Nexus (see attached spreadsheet). One (1) vehicle to be used in Nexus 32909. The estimate for the High-Water/Mod Units includes a contingency to cover potential cost inflation and all necessary equipment for both capabilities and modes for operations. Any savings will be returned to the impact fee fund(s).

The Fire Rescue department needs to have both a high-water retrieval capability and a wildland firefighting capability in one apparatus. The impact of the continual and future growth in the City of Palm Bay justifies the need and usage of Fire Impact fees. The hybrid high-water/mod units will provide multiple uses and benefits to new development and future residents and businesses in the City of Palm Bay. Palm Bay has experienced a 7% growth since January 2023, and with growth being a focus in all Nexus for the foreseeable future, this growth impacts the services provided by Fire Rescue, particularly with interspersed wildland/urban interface challenges. As Palm Bay continues to be developed, the need increases for stabilized and consistent apparatus that create added value for all the citizens in the city.

Squad Vehicles - Fire Rescue is requesting the use of Fire Impact Fees in the amount of \$2,675,000 to fund five (5) fully operational squads to include all life-saving equipment necessary to perform fire and EMS functions. One (1) squad for Nexus 32907, 32908 and 32909; two (2) squads Nexus 32907 and 32908; one (1) squad Nexus 32905; and one (1) squad Nexus 32909. Squad/Quick Response vehicles 2, 3 and 8 service multiple Nexus daily and Squad/Quick Response vehicles 7 and 9 will only serve one nexus each, routinely. This is due to the location of the Fire Station to which they will be assigned. The estimate for the five (5) Squad/Quick Response Vehicles also includes a contingency to cover potential cost inflation. Any savings will be returned to the impact fee fund.

The impact of the continual and future growth of all Nexus in the City of Palm Bay justifies the need and usage of Fire Impact fees. The squads are a new operational need in the city due to the high demand for services. This expansion of current service levels will be strategically located in areas that are currently experiencing growth. These units will provide a benefit to new developments and future residents and businesses of the City of Palm Bay. The squads are a quick response all purpose vehicle that enhance Fire Rescue capabilities and allow fire suppression units to have reliable availability for fire risks in the community. These units will also enhance the response deployment to align with the Insurance Services Office (ISO) recommendation reducing the Fire Suppression Rating within the boundaries of all Nexus and the City as a whole. Palm Bay has experienced a 7% growth since January 2023, and with growth being a focus in the City of Palm Bay for the foreseeable future, this growth impacts the services provided by Palm Bay Fire Rescue, particularly with incident operations. As Palm Bay continues to be developed, the need increases for stabilized and consistent response deployment methodology to ensure service demands are improved to accommodate efficient and safe operations on an emergency scene.

Mobile Emergency Response Vehicle - Fire Rescue is requesting the use of Fire Impact Fees in the amount of \$40,000 to fund a Mobile Emergency Response Vehicle for the growing southeastern

area (Nexus 32909). The estimate for the Mobile Emergency Response Vehicle includes a contingency to cover potential cost inflation and all necessary equipment for both capabilities and modes for operations. Any savings will be returned to the impact fee fund.

The impact of the continual and future growth of all Nexus in the City of Palm Bay justifies the need and usage of Fire Impact fees. The Mobile Emergency Response Vehicle is a critical apparatus that is needed to provide a rapid response to life-threatening emergencies during mass gatherings in the absence of access for traditional Emergency Response Vehicles. Palm Bay has experienced a 7% growth since January 2023, and with growth being focused throughout all Nexus for the foreseeable future, this growth impacts the services provided by Fire Rescue, particularly with rapid response to life threatening emergencies. Improvements that provide for the safety of all residents in the city are the goal of Palm Bay Fire Rescue.

Training Division/Phase 1 - Fire Rescue is requesting the use of Fire Impact Fees in the amount of \$1,659,066 for the Training Division/Phase I. This includes four (4) new training vehicles in the amount of \$406,000 using Nexus 32905, 32907, 32908 and 32909. Nexus 32905 and 32907 have been assigned 12.5% each due to multiple Fire Stations within those Nexus that the Training staff will be going to. Nexus 32908 has been assigned 25% due to a Fire Station and Training area that will be performed in that Nexus. Nexus 32909 has been assigned 50%. Nexus 32909 has been assigned a greater percentage due to the Training Facility and multiple Fire Stations being located within this Nexus. This request also includes training aids and equipment in the amount of \$319,326 to help build a fully operational Training Division to include expansion of the training facility located at Station 5. Nexus 32905, 32907 and 32908 have been assigned 30% each due to the ability of the training equipment to be taken to and utilized in these Nexus. Nexus 32909 has been assigned 10%. This request also includes training facility infrastructure in the amount of \$933,740 to help build a fully operational Training Division. Nexus 32909 has been assigned 50% due to the facility being located within this Nexus. Nexus 32905, 32907 and 32908 have been assigned approximately 17% each. The estimate for the Training Division implementation and Phases of facility expansion will include a contingency to cover potential cost inflation. These Phases will be implemented over time to ensure the training division grows realistically with the needs of the department. Any savings will be returned to the impact fee fund.

The training vehicles requested are new to our fleet. Currently, we do not have vehicles assigned to the training division. The requested vehicles will allow training props to be transported to all fire stations for training purposes without taking fire suppression units out of their primary response areas leaving vacant response coverage zones. Training is an ongoing process throughout the week and these vehicles will become integral to allowing fire personnel to receive training. The impact from the continual growth in the city and the need to maintain station coverage is the reason why impact fees are being utilized.

The impact of the continual and future growth of all Nexus in the City of Palm Bay justifies the need and usage of Fire Impact fees. The Training Division and Training Facility Expansion would provide a benefit to new development and future residents and businesses of the City of Palm Bay. It is beneficial to both the residents and business owners of Palm Bay to have this needed expansion to further develop skills proficiency for all members of Fire Rescue. Through expansion of the training facility and adding more props and skills stations, members will be better prepared for the current and expected growth of both residential and commercial properties in the city. The division and facility expansion would also allow Fire Rescue to acquire Insurance Services Office (ISO) points reducing the Fire Suppression Rating within the boundaries of all Nexus and the City as a whole. Palm Bay has experienced a 7% growth since January 2023, and this growth impacts the services provided by Fire Rescue, particularly with field supervision. As Palm Bay continues to be developed, the need increases for stabilized and consistent training methodology to ensure skills are retained and improved to accommodate efficient and safe operations on an emergency scene. The development of a training division will also improve new hire orientation for the increase in staffing needed for the planning of future fire stations. The training division will be strategically planned to include expansion to the existing training facility for Palm Bay Fire Rescue.

Our goal is to better prepare our firefighters to deliver high quality services to the citizen of Palm Bay.

**REQUESTING DEPARTMENTS:**

Fire

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Total funding in the amount of \$6,357,195 is available in the Impact Fees Accounts (\$931,921 in Nexus 32905, \$1,363,583 in Nexus 23907, \$1,665,640 in Nexus 32908 and \$2,396,051 in Nexus 32909) and accounts will be established within the Impact Fee Accounts, upon approval.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Motion to approve the Cooperative Purchase for fire/EMS Specialty Vehicles for Fire Rescue utilizing the Fire/EMS/Law Enforcement Specialty Vehicle Procurement Program of the North Carolina Sheriff's Association contract #25-05-0521, NPPGov National Buying Cooperative contract for Fire/EMS/Law Enforcement Specialty Vehicle Procurement Program, Contract No. PS20225, and the Georgia Department of Administrative Services contract No. 99999-SPD-ES40199373-005; and approve utilizing Fire Impact Fees in the amount of \$6,074,066 for the purchase of High-Water/Mod Units, Tender, Squad Vehicles, training vehicles. and to fund the Training Division/Phase 1 as stated above.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Impact Fee Worksheet
2. Impact Fee Equipment Final
3. Impact Fee Infrastructure Final