Fire Command Vehicle Replacement Justification

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Raymond Stackhouse, Director

Date: June 29, 2026

Subject: Emergency Vehicle Replacement Request – Command Unit

Executive Summary

A strong command presence is the foundation of fireground safety and operational success. Decisive command requires a reliable, dedicated workspace to manage rapidly changing emergencies, maintain personnel accountability, and ensure firefighter safety.

Successful emergency operations rely on three interdependent components: adequate personnel, functional equipment, and decisive command. The command vehicle is the essential tool that directly supports that third component.

Current Vehicle Status: Critical Deficiencies

The current command vehicle has suffered a terminal mechanical failure and poses an immediate risk to emergency service delivery:

- **19-Year-Old Hand-Me-Down:** Purchased in 2007, this vehicle served 10 years in Code Enforcement before being transferred to the Fire Service.
- **Terminal Mechanical Failure:** The engine has a leaking cylinder head.
- **Severe Corrosion:** Due to extensive rust, the maintenance garage cannot dismantle the engine for diagnostics and has officially recommended the immediate decommissioning of the unit.
- **Reliability Risk:** As the communications hub of a major incident, any mechanical breakdown during an emergency response directly compromises public and firefighter safety.

Alignment with Apparatus Replacement Plan

While this vehicle was originally slated for replacement in 2027 (per the attached Apparatus Replacement Plan), the recent mechanical failure and official recommendation to decommission have moved the requirement from "planned" to "immediate." Accelerating this purchase ensures we do not have a multi-year gap in command capabilities.

Budget & Procurement Timeline

To resolve this critical operational gap, we have identified an immediate procurement pathway utilizing existing funds within our **Capital Vehicle Account**.

Category	Item Description	Estimated Cost
Vehicle Purchase	**Base Chassis (SUV)**: Pursuit-rated AWD unit (e.g., Chevy Tahoe SSV or Ford Expedition Special Service). Includes immediate delivery from existing dealer stock.	**$57,984**
Emergency Upfitting	**Visual & Auditory Warning**: Full LED emergency lighting package, 200W siren system, and rear-mounted slide-out cabinet.	**$25,167.15**
Communication Hub	**Multi-Band Radios**: Dual permanently mounted mobile radios with multi-channel monitoring capabilities and external high-gain antennas.	**$15,240.5**
Technology Suite	**Mobile Data & Power**: Ruggedized vehicle router with cellular signal booster, inverter system for on-scene power, and docking for a command tablet.	**$7,760.97**
Graphics		**$2,467.50**
Total Project Cost		**$108,620.12**

By bypassing standard factory order waiting times and securing a base vehicle currently available on a dealer lot, we expect a rapid turnaround of 1 to 2 months for delivery and specialized upfitting before the unit is fully mission ready. Alternatively, if we are unable to pursue this approach the unit will need to be ordered which will be a 4–5 month lead time.

Conclusion

Replacing this vehicle is an urgent safety necessity. This approach allows us to accelerate a 2027 planned expenditure into 2026 without requiring new tax dollars, while preventing further maintenance spending on decommissioned assets. Given the maintenance garage's recommendation, we respectfully request approval to utilize **$108,620.12** from our Capital Vehicle Account to secure this unit.

Year	Engine 38	Rescue 38	Squad 38	Utility 38-1	Utility 38-2
2012					
2013					
2014					
2015	$500,000.00				
2016	$530,000.00				
2017	$561,800.00				
2018	$595,508.00	$725,000.00			
2019	$631,238.48	$768,500.00			
2020	$669,112.79	$814,610.00		$74,200.00	
2021	$709,259.56	$863,486.60		$130,000.00	
2022	$751,815.13	$915,295.80		$137,800.00	
2023	$796,924.04	$1,277,092.00		$146,068.00	
2024	$844,739.48	$1,353,717.52		$154,832.08	
2025	$895,423.85	$1,434,940.57	$1,071,203.00	$164,122.00	$87,555.36
2026	$949,149.28	$1,521,037.01	$1,135,475.18	$173,969.33	$92,808.68
2027	$1,006,098.24	$1,612,299.23	$1,203,603.69	$184,407.48	$98,377.20
2028	$1,066,464.13	$1,709,037.18	$1,275,819.91	$195,471.93	$104,279.83
2029	$1,130,451.98	$1,811,579.41	$1,352,369.11	$207,200.25	$110,536.62
2030	$1,198,279.10	$1,920,274.17	**$1,433,511.25**	$219,632.26	$117,168.82
2031	$1,270,175.84	$2,035,490.63	$1,519,521.93	$232,810.20	$124,198.95
2032	$1,346,386.39	$2,157,620.06	$1,610,693.24	$246,778.81	$131,650.89
2033	$1,427,169.58	$2,287,077.27	$1,707,334.84	$261,585.54	$139,549.94
2034	$1,512,799.75	$2,424,301.90	$1,809,774.93	$277,280.67	$147,922.94
2035	$1,603,567.74	$2,569,760.02	$1,918,361.43	$293,917.51	$156,798.31
2036	$1,699,781.80	$2,723,945.62	$2,033,463.11	$311,552.57	$166,206.21
2037	$1,801,768.71	$2,887,382.35	$2,155,470.90	$330,245.72	$176,178.59
2038	$1,909,874.83	$3,060,625.30	$2,284,799.15	$350,060.46	$186,749.30
2039	$2,024,467.32	**$3,244,262.81**	$2,421,887.10	$371,064.09	$197,954.26
2040	$2,145,935.36	$3,438,918.58	$2,567,200.33	$393,327.94	**$209,831.52**
2041	$2,274,691.48	$3,645,253.70	$2,721,232.35	$416,927.61	$222,421.41
2042	$2,411,172.97	$3,863,968.92	$2,884,506.29	$441,943.27	$235,766.69
2043	$2,555,843.35	$4,095,807.05	$3,057,576.66	$468,459.86	$249,912.69
2044	$2,709,193.95	$4,341,555.48	$3,241,031.26	$496,567.46	$264,907.45

Current Year: 2026

	Model Year	In Service Year	Current Age (Years)	Age In Service (Years)
Engine 38	6/30/2015	2015	10	
Rescue 38	2027	2027	0	
Squad 38	1/1/2026	2026	0	
Utility 38-1	4/11/2024	2025	2	
Utility 38-2	1/21/2025	2025	1	
Traffic 38	9/23/2013	2013	12	

Command 38-1	3/10/2023	2023	3	
Command 38-2	4/20/2007	2007	19	
Annual increase of 5-7% per NFPA, chart based on 6%				

Legend:

$XXX	Denotes expected replacement cost for the given year
$XXX	Denotes replacement cost (input based on known cost or estimate) (cells may be hidd

Traffic 38	Command 38-1	Command 38-2
$97,000.00		
$102,820.00		
$108,989.20		
$115,528.55		
$122,460.27		
$129,807.88		
$137,596.35	$50,000.00	$50,000.00
$145,852.14	$53,000.00	$53,000.00
$154,603.26	$56,180.00	$56,180.00
$163,879.46	$89,300.00	$89,300.00
$173,712.23	$94,658.00	$94,658.00
$184,134.96	$100,337.48	$100,337.48
$195,183.06	$106,357.73	$106,357.73
$206,894.04	$112,739.19	$112,739.19
$219,307.68	$119,503.54	**$119,503.54**
$232,466.14	$126,673.76	$126,673.76
$246,414.11	$134,274.18	$134,274.18
$261,198.96	$142,330.63	$142,330.63
$276,870.90	$150,870.47	$150,870.47
$293,483.15	$159,922.70	$159,922.70
$311,092.14	$169,518.06	$169,518.06
$329,757.67	$179,689.14	$179,689.14
$349,543.13	$190,470.49	$190,470.49
$370,515.72	$201,898.72	$201,898.72
$392,746.66	$214,012.65	$214,012.65
$416,311.46	$226,853.41	$226,853.41
$441,290.15	**$240,464.61**	$240,464.61
$467,767.56	$254,892.49	$254,892.49
$495,833.61	$270,186.04	$270,186.04
$525,583.63	$286,397.20	$286,397.20
$557,118.64	$303,581.03	$303,581.03
$590,545.76	$321,795.89	$321,795.89

Lifespan (Years)	Next Proposed Replacement	
12	Decommisioned	
12	2039	
4	2030	
15	2040	
15	2040	
15	2028	

12	2035	
12	Decommisioned	

en in previous years)