

CVFRS Ambulance Replacement

Request for Bond Funding Approval at March 2024 Town Meeting

CVFRS requests that the Town of Charlotte approve bond funding not to exceed \$365,000 for purchase and fit out of a new ambulance to replace the current 2014 (A-1) unit.



CVFRS has 2 ambulances:

- a primary
- a backup

To assure that an ambulance is ready to respond at all times



A1

2014 Ford F450



A2

2020 Ford F550



- CVFRS policy sets useful life of each ambulance at 10 years.
 - 5 years as primary
 - 5 years as back-up
- Nationally useful life is typically 4-7 years
 - Varies based on setting and call volume
 - Urban 5 years (high call volumes)
 - Rural up to 10 years
- ***A1 scheduled for replacement in 2024***



A1 was put into service in early 2014

A1 has begun to experience increasing reliability issues:

- Oxygen leaks
- Erratic electrical issues
- Enclosure is starting to rust
- Front end shimmy

A1 is becoming expensive to keep operational and likely will require increasing repairs over time



A1 is scheduled for replacement in 2024 BUT...

... following the pandemic:

- **Lead times have stretched from 6 months to 2 ½ to 3 ½ years**
- **Costs have risen by 50% since 2019**

If we order a new ambulance following the town meeting, the likely best case is that the new ambulance will be delivered in late 2026



Evaluation of Bids

Detailed RFP was sent to 3 selected vendors to get pricing:

- Osage

Supplier of CVFRS's 2 previous ambulances

Recently changed their local representative



- Braun

Well liked by neighboring department including Vergennes and Shelburne

High bidder on A2 in 2019

Represented by a long-established ambulance specialist



- AEV

Declined to bid

Cited not being selected by CVFRS on an ambulance bid 12 years ago



The recommendation of the ambulance committee :

Select Braun's proposal for \$357,821



Decision based on:

- Faster proposed delivery. 3 to 10 months
- Braun's strong reputation with neighboring departments
- Committee member's hands on experience with Braun ambulances
- The accuracy and thoroughness of Braun's proposal
- The committee's conclusion that Braun provides a product with more safety and technology features
- While the cost premium is 6% above the lower bid, the potential cost savings come with the risks of keeping A1 in service for an additional 3 to 10 months. These costs could eat up and surpass the bid cost premium.

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Thank you !

