COUNCIL AGENDA: FEBRUARY 18, 2014

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF SURPLUS FIRE ENGINE

SOURCE: FIRE DEPARTMENT

COMMENT: In 2013, the Fire Department took delivery of a new triple combination fire engine, replacing a 1989 FMC, which is now surplus equipment. The department maintains a fleet of four (4) triple combination pumpers, one (1) aerial truck, one (1) quick attack pumper, two (2) brush patrols and one (1) heavy rescue vehicle. The fleet also includes one (1) Office of Emergency Services triple combination pumper.

The 1989 FMC Star Fire Pumper has 72,458 road miles. The total engine hours of 8,318 include approximately 2,900 driving hours, which are reflected in the mileage above, as well as 5,418 hours of stationary pumping, not reflected in the above mileage. The estimated mileage value when calculating actual road miles and stationary pumping hours is 207,829 miles.

This model of FMC is an open cab design; firefighters riding as passengers are not enclosed within the cab. This design is no longer permitted for new fire apparatus because of the danger to passengers riding in the open cab. The vehicle has limited storage space in the side compartments and cannot carry the full complement of equipment found on the department's newer vehicles. These factors cause this vehicle to be unsuitable for future long-term use within the Porterville Fire Department.

All equipment previously used on this vehicle has been removed and placed on the department's newest fire engine. The cost to purchase additional equipment to keep the older fire engine in operation is approximately $50,000 and includes fire hose, nozzles, power equipment, hand tools, breathing apparatus and emergency medical supplies.

The FMC Fire Apparatus equipment business was discontinued in 1990. FMC no longer manufactures parts or provides supply service. FMC currently advises owners of FMC fire apparatus to search Google or Yahoo for parts suppliers.

Dir. _____ Appropriated/Funded _____ C.M. _____ Item No. 2

ACTING

Within its two fire stations, the Porterville Fire Department has seven apparatus bays large enough to park this fire engine. All seven bays are filled with newer fire engines of greater value and utility. Because this vehicle is parked outside, exposure to the elements will cause accelerated deterioration and increase the maintenance costs required to keep it operational. Additional apparatus bays are not expected to be available until completion of the third fire station, sometime within the next two years. At that time, the department will have a 1996 fire engine of enclosed cab design ready for replacement and may recommend it be maintained in the fleet.

Annual Cost to Maintain: The annual cost to maintain this vehicle includes insurance, maintenance and fuel. Bi-annual safety inspections and maintenance are required of all emergency response vehicles. If additional repairs become necessary, maintenance costs can be much higher, even if just for batteries and tires. Fuel use is predicated on weekly and annual testing of the engine and fire pump with only minimal road driving.

Insurance	$1,200
Maintenance	$ 600
Fuel	S 300
Annual Costs	$2,100

Required Repairs: After 25 years of service, the 500 gallon steel water tank has developed leaks. Dealers of used fire apparatus require the tank be repaired prior to marketing and indicate the vehicle has no resale value without tank repair. Estimated cost of tank repair is $1,500.

Estimated Re-Sale Value

Estimated fair market price:	$ 8,000
Less sales commission (10%):	-$ 800
Less cost to repair 500-gallon water tank	-$ 1,500
	$ 5,700

Mutual Benefit: The Tule River Fire Department has one fire engine designed and equipped for structural firefighting. During normal operation, this engine can be out of service for a day or more during routine, scheduled maintenance and repairs, leaving the Tribe without structural fire protection. If more time-consuming repairs are required, the engine can be out of service for longer periods, exposing the Tribe to higher fire risk. Beginning February 19, 2014, the Tribe's structural fire engine will be out of service for four to five weeks, for major repairs. The Porterville Fire Department is currently providing its surplus fire engine to the Tule River Fire Department through mutual aid for the duration of the scheduled repair. The Tule River Fire Department uses their structural fire engine as the primary initial attack apparatus for structure fires on the Tule River Reservation, including Eagle Mountain

Casino. The engine is also their primary resource for vehicle fires and vehicle accidents within the Reservation and along the Reservation Road corridor.

City of Porterville transit vehicles traveling daily to and from the reservation are exposed to increased risk if a fire engine capable of extinguishing a transit bus fire were not available to respond quickly. Eagle Mountain Casino is a popular recreational venue and employer for Porterville citizens. When traveling to and from and while staying at the casino, these people are also subjected to increased risk in the absence of a fire engine capable of mitigating vehicle and structure fires.

The surplus City of Porterville fire engine is well-suited to serve as a backup engine for the Tule River Fire Department and as such would help protect the real property interest of the City as transit vehicles travel to and from the Reservation. It would also serve to increase the level of fire protection provided to Porterville citizens who travel to and enjoy the recreational and employment opportunities offered at Eagle Mountain Casino.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That the City Council:

1) Make a finding of mutual benefit; and

2) Authorize staff to transfer ownership of one (1) surplus 1989 FMC fire apparatus, VIN: 1S9AT6L03JC185792, to the Tule River Tribe.