



LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: Wednesday, July 5, 2017

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Safer Money-Saving Alternative Rescue Vehicle Placed into Service

Lakeland, FL – The Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) is excited to announce that on Thursday, July 6, 2017 it will place into service its first alternate rescue apparatus at Fire Station 3; part of an ongoing money-saving program. The new vehicle roll-out, which will be replacing the department's busiest rescue apparatus, Rescue 32, will bring with it significant cost savings and added flexibility at emergency scenes; all to better serve Lakeland.

The department currently has four traditional non-transport rescue vehicles. The new alternative rescue vehicles are modified pickup trucks that will have the same equipment LFD's rescue vehicles have always carried. The new vehicles are highly maneuverable in traffic and more adaptable on emergency scenes.

Rescue vehicles at the department get replaced every five years. The anticipated savings for the first four rescue vehicle replacements alone is \$200,000. Each vehicle has a topper and slide out tray to allow for their multi-use as medical rescue and fire response vehicles. These will be recycled for future use on future apparatus which will save an additional \$10,000 per rescue. The new vehicle-recycle-refurbishment mechanism will save an additional \$420,000 for a total of \$520,000 in savings for rescue vehicle purchases over the next twelve-year period. An additional \$48,000 in fuel cost and \$60,200 in maintenance cost will be realized over the same twelve-year period.

Lakeland's new alternative vehicle replacement plan reduces the initial apparatus cost by 45%. Maintenance cost will be reduced by 50%, and fuel consumptions will be reduced by 50% for a total savings for the department and the City of Lakeland of \$635,000. Additionally, safety and quality will be improved in these new vehicles, with added safety like back up cameras and roll-over protection. LFD uses the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus as a guide to meet all safety and configuration mandates for fire apparatus including emergency medical response. All tools and equipment, including slide-out-trays and toppers, exceed safety and compliance standards.

The new alternative rescue trucks were proposed by a team of LFD Firefighter / Paramedics at the department looking for ways to better serve citizens while being responsive to budgetary pressures. The cost savings and how to achieve more with less was managed internally by the department's Rescue Chief Shane Reynolds and a committee made up of LFD's emergency responders in the field.

The new alternative rescue vehicle will be placed in to service at approximately 10:00 AM at Fire Station 3 located at 110 W. Bella Vista, Lakeland, FL 33805. The media is invited to cover this exciting new development at the department. The alternative rescue vehicle committee will be on hand and available to reporters.

END

Gary Ballard, Fire Chief

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