



Agenda Action Form Overview

Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 19BCC000006 New Hope Fire Tax District Fund Balance Distribution Request of \$40,000 to purchase a replacement fire tanker truck.

Background/Justification

The New Hope Fire Department is currently under contract for fire protection for a portion of western Durham County. New Hope has requested \$40,000 of the Fire District's Fund Balance to replace a 1990 model tanker truck that has been in service for 28 years. The new fire tanker enhances firefighter safety through cab design and equipment, increases vehicle stability making it safer to operate on the roadways and incorporates new engine and emissions technologies for a cleaner environment. The new fire tanker will carry 3000 gallons, three times the amount of water as the old, which triples the capability of the new apparatus. Further, the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1901 recommends replacing vehicles more than 15 years old in order to incorporate new manufacturer's safety enhancements.

Policy Impact

The 2013 Fire Study, adopted and approved by the Durham County Board of County Commissioners, recommended that fire districts maintain a minimum fire tax district fund balance of 4% and to utilize excess funds for Capital Improvement items that would reduce the risk to the residents in each respective district. The use of the New Hope Fund Balance meets the intent of the Study by helping to reduce the Fire District's Fund Balance closer to the 4% level.

Procurement Background

New Hope Fire Department is required to follow the Orange County, NC formal purchasing process. New Hope has a truck committee that evaluates the need for apparatus, determines how a truck can meet multiple mission requirements, then writes specifications for the vehicle required. Vendors provide their bids and the department selects the best fit according to their specifications and needs. The Orange County BOCC reviews and is requested to approve major purchases such as this.

Fiscal Impact

The fund balance distribution to New Hope Fire Department represents approximately 11.8% of the overall cost of the new tanker with a total price of \$338,574, the remaining 88.2% being paid from Orange County district funds.

Recommendation

The County Manager recommends that the Board approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No.19BCC000006 appropriating \$40,000 of New Hope Fire Tax District Fund Balance to offset costs for the purchase of a replacement fire tanker truck.