

Village OKs truck deal to avoid increase

Written by MARK JAEGER
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With cash available, fire pumper order placed before \$8,000 price hike

The Fredonia Village Board agreed to make the best of an uncertain situation, approving the purchase of a new pumper truck by the Fredonia Fire Department.

Facing a June 1 price increase of \$8,000, trustees backed a request by the fire department to purchase a pumper with a Kenworth chassis from Reliant Fire Apparatus for \$223,000.

Fire Chief Brian Schommer said the new vehicle will replace a 1988 truck which was originally scheduled to be replaced next year.

The replacement schedule was pushed up a year, because money was available in the vehicle's equipment replacement fund. That account got a surge in cash when a pickup truck was budgeted twice.

Schommer said the department's truck committee had also considered a Freightliner truck, but noted that the selected vehicle has a height of 9 feet 5 inches — three inches shorter than the alternate vehicle.

Height is a crucial consideration for the department, because the height clearance at the fire station is just 10 feet.

"I would have liked to go with the Freightliner, but the four-inch clearance on the roof is just too close. For us, three inches is a big difference," Schommer said.

Bids will be accepted for the old pumper truck, although delivery of the new vehicle won't be for eight months. Any sale would be contingent on having the new truck available.

"I've already had a couple farmers approach me about the old truck," Schommer said.

Village President Chuck Lapolica said approving the truck purchase clears a financial hurdle for the village.

"Hopefully, we will have Fredonia Avenue on the docket next year, so it is good to get this out of the way now," Lapolica said.