

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. MOTION to recommend the Town Council authorize the purchase of a 2015 Ford Utility vehicle in the amount of \$12,000 from Account # 21020551-57510 (GFFC CNR Vehicle) and authorize the transfer of \$7,500 from Account # 21020551-57300 (GFFD CNR New Equipment) to Account # 21020551-57510 (GFFD CNR Vehicle).

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Ingalls

Discussion: Councilor Saums stated the Gales Ferry Fire Chief's vehicle was aging and it was beyond reasonable repair, noting that it had 167,000 miles on it, and the dashboard no longer lights up, noting that the costs to repair the electronics was more than the value of the vehicle itself. Therefore, he stated the Fire Chief has requested authorization to purchase a used 2015 Ford as a stop gap measure to allow the build-up of CNR funds.

Gales Ferry Fire Chief Tony Saccone noted that he received quotes for used vehicles and felt that the 2015 Ford was the best option noting that they would receive \$1,500 for the trade-in of the current vehicle, which would bring the cost to purchase the used 2015 vehicle to \$10,500. He noted that Account # 21020551-57510 (GFFC CNR Vehicle) currently had an available balance of \$4,500; and Account # 21020551-57300 (GFFD CNR New Equipment) had a current available balance of \$122,754, prior to the proposed transfer.

Councilor Ryan questioned with the purchase of the 2015 Ford whether the Gales Ferry Fire Chief's account would be totally depleted. Mr. Saccone stated that was correct and he noted that in preparing the Gales Ferry Fire Department's Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget that he had included the replacement of the Chief's Vehicle in the Department's Capital Plan. Therefore, he stated with purchasing a replacement vehicle at this time that they could remove the vehicle from the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Capital Improvement (CIP) Budget.

Administrator of Emergency Services Steve Holyfield stated that \$4,500 would come out of Account # 21020551-57510 (GFFC CNR Vehicle) and \$7,500 would come out of Account # 21020551-57300 (GFFD CNR New Equipment) to purchase the used 2015 Ford. Councilor Ryan questioned whether they would have enough funding in their Capital Accounts for other expenses that may arise for the remainder of this year. Mr. Holyfield stated that they had adequate funding noting Account # 21020551-57300 (GFFD CNR New Equipment) had a balance of \$122,754. He suggested going forward that the funding for the Fire Chief's vehicles for both Fire Companies (Ledyard Center and Gales Ferry) be included in the Fire Apparatus Replacement Capital Improvement Plan. However, he stated they could discuss this idea as part of the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget preparation.

Councilor Ryan questioned the reason the Fire Chief's vehicles were not previously included in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Mayor Allyn explained at one time the Fire Chief's received a stipend for the use of their personal vehicle and that this changed overtime, to where both of the Fire Chief's now have town vehicles and they also receive a stipend for the service they provide.

VOTE: 3 – 0 Approved and so declared