MEMORANDUM

TO: Jeff Dingman, City Administrator

CC: Fort Smith Board of Directors

FROM: Darrell Clark, Fire Chief

DATE: November 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Purchase of Heavy Rescue Truck from SVI

SUMMARY

The Fort Smith Fire Department has been working for over a year on selecting a manufacturer and finalizing the specs for our department's next heavy rescue truck. Our department has purchased all of our apparatus from Pierce Manufacturing for over 20 years. I decided to look outside of Pierce Manufacturing to ensure we are getting the best apparatus. Heavy rescue apparatus are highly customized and built to each fire department's needs.

Pierce Manufacturing constantly pushed back on our requests for customization without us paying engineering fees. I had to make to-scale hand drawn layouts of certain compartments in order for them to understand what we wanted. One compartment they were unable to correctly design. We left that compartment empty and would have to hire a local fabricator build the correct storage solution if we ordered our truck from Pierce.

The initial quote from Pierce was $1,611,630.00. Their estimated delivery time is 49 months. As mentioned earlier, the Pierce truck would not be complete when delivered. The Pierce price is for a 10” raised cab.

Several FSFD personnel from Administration, Fleet Maintenance, and personnel assigned to Rescue 1 traveled to Fort Collins, CO to tour the SVI facilities. After seeing several rescue trucks at various stages of completion, we went over our specs with the VP of Sales and one of their engineers. SVI engineers never said “no” or questioned any of our customization requests.

The final quote for the SVI truck is $1,678,607.00 is for a completed truck with a higher 20" raised cab. The estimated delivery time is 700 days.

SVI only builds 40 to 50 heavy rescue trucks each year. Heavy rescue trucks are their specialty. Their focus is quality over quantity while providing industry-leading customization. They build each compartment in the truck to carry your equipment and show you how your equipment will be mounted in the compartments utilizing 3D graphics. Pierce Manufacturing is the largest fire truck manufacturer and is resistant to new ideas and high-level customization. Pierce wants to build us a semi-custom rescue truck, and we figure out where and how to mount equipment after we take delivery.

I used a committee to spec the new heavy rescue truck and look at different manufacturers. The committee is comprised of myself, the nine personnel assigned to Rescue 1, Fleet Maintenance Supervisor, and EVT. The decision to select SVI to build our next heavy rescue truck was unanimous.

We are using Sourcewell for this purchase. The purchase price of $1,678,607.00 will be funded from the apparatus sinking fund in our sales use tax budget program.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 3275_Rescue_1_Resolution.pdf
2. Final_Contract-Rescue_1.pdf

FISCAL IMPACT: *$1,678,607.00*
BUDGET INFORMATION: *Budgeted / Fire - 1/8% Sales and Use Tax*

RESOLUTION NO._____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF FIRE APPARATUS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS, THAT:

The bid, as indicated by enclosure for the purchase of one (1) fire apparatus for $1,678,607.00 from SVI Trucks, is accepted.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF December 2026.

APPROVED:

_____
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Sherri Gard, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

_____
City Attorney
No Publication Required