

Decision Note – Purchase of Fire Appliances - Enhanced Rescue Pumps (ERPs) & Pump Rescue Ladders (PRLs) – Updated February 2024



REQUEST FOR DECISION BY THE STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

	Policing:	Crime:	Fire & Rescue:
This decision relates to:			X

APPROVAL (for completion by Staffordshire Commissioner only)

Rationale for approval

STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

Signature

Date 14 March 2024

Date decision required by:

If an urgent approval is required, please state reasons:

For completion by Staffordshire Commissioner's Office only:-

Decision Number: SCF/D/202324/002

Date Received: 14 March 2024

	Yes	No
Has the required decision been considered under the guidance of the Staffordshire Commissioner's Decision Making Policy?		
Has the required decision been deemed to be a Key Decision as defined within the Staffordshire Commissioner's Decision Making Policy?		
Who is empowered to make the required decision?		

Title	Purchase of Fire Appliances - Enhanced Rescue Pumps (ERPs) & Pump Rescue Ladders (PRLs)
Summary:	<p>We are seeking approval to purchase two Enhanced Rescue Pumps (ERPs) and associated support and maintenance package, following a compliant tender exercise and standstill period.</p> <p>The award will also allow for the potential future purchase of PRLs in subsequent years replacement programs.</p> <p>The purchase shall be funded by approved Fire capital and has been internally approved by the relevant Principal Officers within the Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service.</p> <p>Approval is now sought from the SCO, due to the potential value of the contract being over XXX</p>
Recommendation:	To award the contract for a period of 5 (+1+1+1+1+1) years to Rosenbauer for the purchase, support and maintenance of two new Enhanced Rescue Pumps (ERPs) and to allow for the potential future purchase of PRLs in subsequent years replacement programs.
Chief Executive	

Signature

Date

14th March 2024



REPORT AND ADVICE TO THE STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

1. Introduction and background

Following work completed by the Service 20-25 review led by the Head of ERT, the decision was made by the Director of Response (Glynn Luznyj) to introduce an Enhanced Rescue Pump (ERP) capability into Staffordshire. The current vehicle used to provide "Heavy" rescue and other specialist roles is a single unit located at Longton Fire Station. This vehicle and its respective equipment are now 15 years old and have reached the end of its workable life due to changes and development in vehicles, technology and environmental considerations.

A number of the tactics that historically only the original Rescue Tender (RT) could provide are now available for use from the service's other frontline appliances, due to the progress and advances made in how SFRS now equips these vehicles. Leaving smaller numbers of specific circumstances and incidents when only the RT is capable of providing the vital equipment and skills required, this combined with the RT being located at a single site in the north of the county has resulted in the RT being redundant for a growing percentage of the time.

SFRS has determined that the need for enhanced rescue capability still exists, to enable the Service to continue to fulfil its statutory duty "*(Fire and Rescue Services Act, Core Functions Part 2) - Consider the community risk register and in particular accidents on major roads, railway accidents, land movement and building collapse*". In order to deliver value for money and use of resources this capability is best included on two frontline appliances that can perform both the standard duties of a frontline appliances along with the enhanced rescue when required, based from two sites in the county making responding to incident timelier.

Replacement of existing appliances is part of the services replacement programme, allowing the disposal of vehicles which have reached the end of their life within Staffordshire.

Capital budgetary approval has already been obtained as follows;

- Response Directorate Board
- Capital Review Board
- Service Delivery Board

2. Issues for consideration

Due to the value of the proposed purchases, a compliant tender exercise, in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015, was required to be conducted to ensure value for money, equal treatment and transparency.

To our benefit, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service on behalf of the NFCC have let a national procurement framework for 'Fire & Rescue Emergency Response Vehicles'. A decision was therefore made between Commercial Services and the procurement working group to carry out the exercise via a further competition utilising the four successful Suppliers on this framework. The market for this type of purchase is small and niche and therefore the competition would focus more on the quality of the solution to be offered rather than time spent on due diligence and vetting of Suppliers in the open market.

3. What other options have been considered?

- a. Removal of heavy rescue capability – this would contravene the services duty under the Fire and Rescue Services Act.
- b. Replace the RT like for like – would deliver the same level of inefficiencies in utilisation and deployments.
- c. Replace RT with smaller rescue van – this would still constrain the deployment options, and the frontline appliances would still require replacement resulting in further capital expenditure, 2 new appliances and plus a van.
- d. Refurbish the current RT and renew equipment – The vehicle is pre-euro 6 and therefore one of the services “dirty diesels” maintaining this on the fleet for longer continues to add to the carbon foot print of the service rather than reduce it, working in opposition to the environmental strategy. Servicing costs for vehicles of this age exponentially increase with parts availability becoming a concern the older it gets.

4. Consultation and Engagement undertaken

The further competition document was created by a team comprising of JETS, ERT, Commercial Services and Operational Crews. Completed under the Devon and Somerset Framework it included a detailed and robust Staffordshire specific technical and quality specification. The specification was the culmination of lessons learnt from previous appliance purchases and tender processes along with a high level of content derived from engagement with frontline practical experts and includes features, options and requirements over and above a basic specification to improve on current appliances and facilitate its ability to respond to all incident types - with increased technical rescue capability - which will be further developed and accepted during the pre-commencement and build process.

The procurement opportunity was published in November 2021, resulting in two submissions which were evaluated in February 2022. Following a robust evaluation process which involved independent scoring, clarification questions and several moderation sessions, the group concluded that Rosenbauer had been successful based on the following scoring;

The basic submitted price for the purchase of 2 x ERPs and 5 years support & maintenance, which was used for the purposes of evaluation to ensure a like-for-like comparisons across the Bidders, is XXX

Please note that purchasing up to three additional PRLs during the life of this contract (which are in scope) at approx. XXX per PRL, would mean this contract value would exceed XXX

However, it should be noted that during mobilisation a number of essential items, which are budgeted for and have been operationally identified as required per the working group specification, shall be considered and discussed with the Director of Response for inclusion within the final Purchase order. This is unlikely to exceed 10% of the tendered price stated above.

The approval to give the intention to award to Rosenbauer and commence the ten day standstill period was approved by the Director of Response within the Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service in late March 2021.

We now seek approval from the SCO, to sign the contract for the purchase of the two ERPs along with up to ten years support and maintenance cover. This shall then enable the immediate order of the First Staged Payment (two chassis at a total of XXX

February 2024 Update

Following on from the procurement of the 2 ERP vehicles SFRS now have a requirement to purchase 3 additional ERP vehicles. As mentioned above there is provision for this within the original contract that was tendered for. This was approved as part of this Decision Note for the further 3 additional appliances.

A quotation was requested from Rosenbauer and a price of XXX per vehicle has been agreed. This equates to XXX in total for the purchase of the 3 vehicles.

We now seek approval from the SCO, for the purchase of the 3 additional ERPs along with up to 10 years support and maintenance cover. This shall then enable the immediate order of the First Staged Payment of 3 chassis at a total of XXX.

Report Implications

Monitoring Officer comments:

Signature _____ Date 14th March 2024



Section 151 Officer comments:

The updated quotation has been fully incorporated into the capital programme and MTFS update. I am supportive that the Service procure the next 3 appliances at the prices quoted.

Signature _____




Date 6 February 2024

Yes

No

Has legal advice (outside of that provided by the Monitoring Officer) been sought on the content of this report?		
Legal Comments:		
The procurement standstill has been conducted for ten calendar days which resulted a request for further feedback from the unsuccessful Provider, E1. This was provided and no further communication has been received.		
5. Equality Comments – please attach the completed EIA		
See attached EIA.		
There are no specific singular protected characteristic impacts for the purchase. There is a general demonstration of due regard which runs through the supporting review paper and these are within the principles of aligning resources to risk with consideration of firefighter safety and historical demand.		
6. Background/supporting paper		
The concept paper was approved at Service Delivery Board on 2 nd Dec 2020.		
7. Public access to information		
Redact SDB paper, Scoring & Pricing.		
8. Data Protection Impact Assessment - please attach the completed DIA		
See attached DPIA.		
9. Is the publication of this form to be deferred?		
10. If the report is for publication, is redaction required?		
	Yes	No
Of the Decision Note?	X	
Of the Appendix?	x	

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Author	David Greensmith
Signed	
Date	6 February 2024

