ATTACHMENT 1

Subsequent to the fire truck presentations made to the Board of Selectmen and the CIP Committee, the Fire Department Truck Committee completed an item by item comparison of the 4 lowest priced proposals. Our review generated several questions for each manufacturer. We received answers to these questions and then visited fire departments which have purchased apparatus made by three of the manufacturers. At this point, the Spartan ERV pumper was eliminated due to inadequate responses to our questions.

During our detailed review, we found that some of the proposals had crew protection systems that included front and side impact protection, but that the two leading candidates (KME and 4 Guys) had only the roll over protection required by the 2009 version of NFPA 1901. At the Fire Chiefs show held in June, we had talked to different manufacturers about frontal impact protection and they had showed us how their air bag systems protected the crew. It was not apparent to the Committee that this safety feature was an option and not a requirement within the crash safety provisions of NFPA 1901. Thus, we had not specifically made this a requirement in the RFP. Incorporation of the front and side impact protection to the required roll over protection systems has a price impact on the bids provided by both KME and 4 Guys.

The truck committee visited fire departments in Simsbury, Ellington and Hampden, MA to assess trucks made by 4 Guys, US Tanker and KME respectively. The Simsbury truck is a new 4 Guys pumper that is very similar to the one we desire, while the Hampden truck is a KME pumper recently put into service. The Ellington truck is a tanker built by US Tanker. Since there are no US Tanker pumpers in the area, we examined Ellington's truck to assess the quality of workmanship of this manufacturer.

Simsbury currently owns apparatus made by various manufacturers and had only good things to say about the 4 Guys pumper and the support they have received from the dealer. They cited a warranty issue they were having with another truck that they had purchased from KME, requiring it to be sent to Albany for work. Warranty work for Somers would be done at the KME warranty center in Woodville, MA, which is approximately 1.5 hours driving time. As a result of their positive experience with 4 Guys, Simsbury FD stated that their plan is to purchase future apparatus from them. They also stated that they would not consider US Tanker as a pumper supplier as they are new to the pumper market and have not built many of these apparatus. This is the same concern we have with this vendor.

The workmanship of the three manufacturers was carefully reviewed during these visits:

- The 4 Guys truck had the highest quality workmanship. Welds were done completely and dressed properly. We also observed that the wiring was excellent with appropriate routing, protection and termination.
- The welds on the KME truck were not all properly dressed; some areas looked as though additional welding should have been done. The deck gun was not rigidly mounted and there was a concern that vibration over time could lead to issues. The wire routing and retention seemed hap-hazard and long term maintenance could also be an issue. We noticed some rust already starting on a 6 month old truck.
- The US Tanker workmanship definitely was inferior to the other two manufacturer. Wiring had already come loose and was dangling in the pump compartment. A plumbing bracket was not attached to anything, thus leaving the pipe loose, which would likely cause a problem in the future. One of the electrical enclosures appeared to be an exterior residential model. Longevity of this in a corrosive highway