

2017 Aerial Apparatus Purchase Information

Seaside Fire & Rescue would like to thank the voters for passing the latest bond levy that will secure the purchase of our new aerial apparatus (Ladder Truck), Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA's) and also continue the funding for the Training and Safety officer position.

Our aerial ladder truck committee spent the last 5 years researching information and planning for the purchase of our next ladder truck to better serve the citizens and visitors to the City of Seaside. Our current ladder truck is 20 years old and has served us well but is in need of replacement because of age, growing repair costs and to continue the home owner's insurance level 3 rating.

The biggest challenges for us was to find a ladder truck that would fit in our station without spending a lot of money remodeling the fire station. We determined early on that we needed a heavy duty 100-foot aerial ladder. Our current 75-foot ladder doesn't reach many of our tall buildings and homes because of the setbacks from the street. We also found that we need more compartment space for all the tools and equipment that we carry. We decided to stay with our current "Quint" configuration (pump, water, hose, aerial ladder, ground ladders) as to make sure we are versatile when responding in this apparatus. Out of all of this the biggest problem we ran into was the height of all the new ladder trucks.

During our long 5-year process we had the opportunity to drive multiple apparatus, work off of multiple aerial ladders and see all the options, pros and cons of each type of aerial apparatus presented. If you were unable to attend the multiple public meetings we had discussing our purchase, here is a quick Question and Answer so you can see the processes we went through. Also at the end there are a couple videos that reiterate our decision on which configuration of aerial ladder truck we chose.

QUESTION: Why did Seaside Fire & Rescue choose a “Tiller” over a “Rear Mount” aerial ladder truck?

- All of the new rear mount aerials we looked at that fit our needs, were too tall in height and would not fit in the station without a dramatic and expensive remodel of the apparatus bays.
- Our current ladder truck and pumper tender already have difficulty maneuvering town when busy with cars parked on side streets. We drove multiple rear mount ladder trucks here in town and determined with the longer length and tandem rear axles we would have greater maneuverability issues than we currently do. In some instances, we know we could not reach specific areas. The tiller though only 14 feet longer, gives us the ability to steer the rear wheels moving the truck away from obstructions.
- The tiller gives us the ability to pull up our many dead-end streets and driveways, and allows us to deploy the ladder minutes faster and with greater reach than backing in a rear

mount aerial up the street like we currently have to do. This has been a big issue for us with fires in the past.

- The tiller truck configuration gives us a greater amount of room to store all of our needed equipment and our new technical rescue team's equipment as well. None of the other rear mount aerials were able to offer us the equipment storage capacities. Some rear mounts were less than our current storage capacities because of the extra outriggers for the aerial ladder.

QUESTION: How will Seaside Fire & Rescue staff this new ladder truck since it takes TWO people to drive it?

- Our current roster has a mix of career, part time, volunteer, night response and residents. This puts multiple people in the station at all times. We have 26 drivers and 2 experienced tiller operators already on staff. Our current response procedure to a fire with the ladder truck already requires 3 qualified people to respond with the ladder truck. A Pump Operator Driver, an Aerial Operator Driver and a Fire Officer. This is adequate to staff the new tiller and will not change our fire response with the new truck.

QUESTION: How much more does a tiller ladder truck cost over a rear mount?

- We had multiple pricing quotes during this process. Overall the price difference from a rear mount that was close to

meeting our needs compared to the tiller that we choose was approximately 10% of the total cost. As stated earlier this rear mount was unable to meet our limited height requirement.

QUESTION: How much training will be involved with this new apparatus?

- Any time we take delivery of any apparatus or equipment we perform extensive training to get everyone up to speed on operations. When we take delivery of this new ladder truck we will be focusing our training on the tiller driver and the aerial operator. Our drivers and tiller operators will need to practice spotting the aerial ladder for placement all around the city. We will also be doing extensive drivers training of the truck to get operators used to driving the front and the rear of the new ladder truck. We have members with extensive tiller operator experience, some whom have trained many operators for a large fire department here in Oregon.
- We currently drill and train 7 days a week and twice on Wednesdays and we have occasional extra weekend drills. Our rigorous drill schedule has us drilling more than most fire departments in the area. We take our training seriously so in times of need, we respond professionally and well trained to meet our citizen's needs.

- **During this evaluation and research process we took one of our newest drivers to operate tillered ladder trucks. Within 15 minutes they were able to drive forward and backwards comfortably behind the rear tiller wheel.**

We hope this answers any questions that you may have on the purchase of the new aerial ladder truck that will be serving the City of Seaside. As always if you have any questions please feel free to contact members of the aerial apparatus committee.

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VIDEOS

Here are a couple videos that show the speed of aerial ladder set up of a tiller compared to a rear mount, and also show the greater maneuverability when driving compared to a conventional rear mount ladder truck.

Pleasant Grove City Council presentation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_fyhqCfjits

Aerial Ladder Set-Up

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qesuVXnoU8Q>