



# CITY OF MANITOWOC

WISCONSIN, USA

[www.manitowoc.org](http://www.manitowoc.org)



I am writing to provide an explanation and rationale for requesting an adjustment to the planned purchase of a tower ladder and fire engine for our department. Specifically, I propose including the purchase of a second engine prior to acquiring the tower ladder, as originally planned. This adjustment is rooted in strategic planning, operational necessity, and prudent fiscal management.

The aging condition of our current fire engine fleet presents a significant operational challenge, as it is increasingly prone to mechanical failures and operational inefficiencies. By proactively replacing this aged apparatus with a newer, more reliable engine, we can improve operational readiness and ensure consistent firefighting capabilities. Replacing our aging fire engine fleet with newer, more efficient models is essential for maintaining operational readiness of our department. It is equally important to consider the timing and sequencing of these replacements to minimize disruptions to our operations. Acquiring a second engine alongside the replacement of the aging apparatus allows us to streamline the transition process and ensure seamless continuity in service delivery.

While the acquisition of additional apparatus represents a significant investment, it is a prudent and necessary measure to safeguard our department's operational capabilities and ensure the safety of our personnel and community. The long-term benefits of replacing aging equipment with modern, reliable alternatives far outweigh the short-term costs, particularly when viewed in the context of enhanced operational efficiency, reduced maintenance expenses, and improved safety outcomes.

Given the everchanging economic condition it is crucial to ensure that our financial commitments remain aligned with our available resources. I believe that adjusting the fire apparatus purchase plan is necessary to address current challenges and position our department for success in the future. I appreciate your understanding and support as we work to optimize our resource allocation and achieve our operational and financial objectives.

The proposed adjustment to our approved fire apparatus replacement plan, as further detailed in the PowerPoint and Excel spreadsheets, to include the purchase of a second engine for the replacement of an additional aged engine is a strategic and fiscally responsible decision that aligns with our department's operational priorities and commitment to community safety.

I respectfully request the Finance Committee's support and approval of this important investment in our firefighting capabilities. Thank you for your attention in this matter. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,

Todd Blaser, Chief of Fire Rescue  
City of Manitowoc

---

FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

CITY HALL ■ 900 QUAY STREET ■ MANITOWOC, WI 54220

PHONE: (920) 686-6540 ■ FIRE CHIEF TODD BLASER ■ EMAIL [TBLASER@MANITOWOC.ORG](mailto:TBLASER@MANITOWOC.ORG)