



**City Council Minutes  
Special Session  
April 18, 2014 – 7:00 pm**

Rhome City Hall  
105 First Street  
Rhome, TX 76078

---

**Council Present: Mayor Chris Moore; Mayor Pro Tem Jo Ann Wilson; Council Members: Michelle Pittman, Louis Godfrey, Charles Pennington and Ronnie Moore.**

**Staff Present: Ramah Burns, City Secretary**

**Mayor Moore called the meeting to order and announce a quorum was present:**

**1. Presentation from the Rhome Fire Department.**

Jason Miller, Captain said the question is to fix or not fix the fire truck that was wrecked. From what they are hearing TML will give them approximately \$6,500 or up to \$10,000 to have it fixed. He said the problem he sees and he can't decide which way to go. If they fix it and if something else happens then we have to fix it. Another thing would be if they fix it and sold it to somebody is there is liability there – that it wasn't okay after the wreck. He said he talked with a former member of the department. He was interested in buying it for about \$10,000. He then changed his mind because of all the wrecks. He said he is leaning into not fixing it. To have the bed remounted and the truck, wiring and pumping would cost about \$63,000. He said the reason that truck is so important to them is that is the primary truck out for EMS calls, car wreck and about 80% of the calls. Its small and everyone can drive it and it carries quite a bit of equipment. He said he sees a need for a truck to replace it for all of the reasons he just said. He said he has some ideas and he called other dealers to see what they had in stock. That way you get it a little cheaper. He said he has looked at used trucks. They run from \$80,000 to \$160,000. A 12 to 15 year old truck could cost \$80,000.

Charles Pennington said they had three (3) brush trucks. Now with one wrecked they are down to two. He said this is not a brush truck. He asked in the heat of the fire season are we going to be okay with two (2) brush trucks.

Jason Miller said the one that was wrecked wasn't a brush truck. It was a back up brush truck. It was more of a rescue vehicle that carried all of the medical equipment. He said like he showed them at the station today the brush trucks don't have the storage. He said he wanted to present to them purchasing a new truck. He said it is an emergency type thing. They don't have anything that will replace the one that was in the wreck or other fire personnel can drive. Some of the benefits in getting a new truck would be decreased maintenance costs,

decreased fuel cost. The life time of a new one would be at least 15 years. If you got a used truck you would get less years depending on the year of the truck. The new truck is a mini-pumper. It is a short down version of a fire truck. Everybody can drive it. It has 1,000 gallons per minute pump. If no one was around to drive the big truck it can be first on and it could hook up and pump the entire fire. The old truck had 350 gallons per minute pump. It's going to take time for everyone to be able to drive the big truck.

Jo Ann Wilson asked if they had a program to train everyone.

Jason Miller said there are emergency vehicle courses that they can go to.

Jason Miller said the new truck is equivalent to a big truck that everyone can be trained to drive. It will take some training but not as long as it would in the bigger truck. Another thing about this particular truck is that it has 4 wheel drive. He said during the ice storm he said you had to have 4 wheel drive to get around town. He said it has a foam tank and plenty of storage space. More space than they had that was wrecked.

Jason Miller said again he believes this is an emergency type situation to replace that truck. He said he has come up with a couple of options for financing. He did a quote for \$150,000 and \$180,000 to break that down to see what the annual payment would be.

Charles Pennington asked if this was set up and ready to go with Rhome painted on the side of it.

Jason Miller said yes it will have Rhome Fire on the door. He said they would like to change that strip to yellow from white. The actual price came to \$183,941 and with the discount the price is \$173,302. He said today they received an offer of \$25,000 for the squad that was fixed and Engine 2. The person came back today and said they don't want the squad now that would put them in a bind but they really need that engine. The person is on a fire department down South – he used to be with us. He said they don't have anything. The offer that was made was \$15,000. He said you can take that \$15,000 and put it in an account and save it. If you choose to get this truck – the first payment is due one (1) year after the papers are signed. He said that would be one (1) payment. He said whether you fix the squad or don't fix the squad – he is leaning on not fixing it. You can take that \$6,500 and put that in the bank. If they elect to fix it then you could sell it for maybe \$10,000.

Charles Pennington asked Ramah Burns if they don't fix it is the \$6,500 still available?

Ramah Burns said if they don't fix the truck, Helen with TML said they will consider the truck totaled. The estimate after the truck was taken to Karl

Klement was \$781 less than what TML adjustor said. If the truck is fixed TML will reimburse us anything over \$781 up to the \$10,000 limit.

Jo Ann Wilson said cash in our pocket is \$6,500.

Jason Miller said he found a line an engine like ours that was in bad shape for \$9,000 and that was nothing on it.

Jason Miller said the person that is interested in Engine 2 is Matt Germaine. He used to be on the department. He would like some small equipment like a chain saw. Jason said Matt doesn't have any of that stuff.

Jason Miller said another idea that was brought to his attention was \$18,000 that was taken out of the Fire Department budget for the First Responder. He said that never did come back to the Fire Department budget. He said that was one idea.

Jo Ann Wilson said if they go this route and finance it for fifteen years and he said the life of the truck is fifteen year. So when is paid off it wore out.

Charles Pennington asked on an average how many miles is put on a truck in a year. He said he has 200,000 on his truck. He said motor wise it should be good for 300,000.

Jason Miller said a six (6) year old truck at his work has 6,000. He said here they have to go long to get to the calls. He would say less than 12,000 miles a year. He said to put 300,000 miles on a fire truck like that would take a long time. Some else is to seek out donations. He said he has already started that with some places. That is going to takes some time. They have talked about some fund raisers today. There are a lot of good ideas. The fire department needs to meet and see what they can do for fundraisers. The boot drive is always for the payment on the big truck. He said the brigade is willing to work with them and do some fundraisers. The last thing would be Revenue Rescue which is what they bill out for car wrecks. They had \$11,000 budgeted out for last year and they are over by \$5,000 right now. That could go towards the truck also. He said he has covered everything he had for them. He said he can't stress enough that this truck was used on almost every call. They have other trucks but they can't make another truck like that out of a brush truck or fire truck. That's an emergency truck that needs to be replaced quickly.

Louis Godfrey said this emergency purchase of \$173,302. Is that still at the 4.127% interest rate?

Charles Pennington asked if the boot drive covered the big truck payment.

Ramah Burns said the General Fund transfer to the Fire Department was \$28,500. Half of that was put into savings and the other half into checking. She said the fire department there will be \$3,000 left after the big truck payment is made on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Jason Miller said when they get extra money they can put it into their savings account.

Michelle Pittman said she did some ruff math. If they get the payment down to \$15,000 – the first payment is not for a year – if they put \$6,500 from the TML payment then the sale of the fire truck 2 of \$15,000 into savings. She said when the note from the radio's is paid off they can use the \$8,000 from the radio's towards the payment.

Jo Ann Wilson asked if they had enough information to consider this at the next meeting.

Charles Pennington said they appreciated the time he put into this. It's been very educational.

Ronnie Moore asked if they could afford to wait two (2) months to make a decision.

Mayor Moore said they can make one tonight.

Jo Ann Wilson said she didn't think they were ready to make one yet because they have budget coming up, they have to look at some numbers, and some things coming up and make sure these guys can pay for it. She said hopefully we can drill water well.

Charles Pennington asked if this price was good for 30 days.

Jason Miller said the price is good for 30 days but he read on there a demo truck is subject to be sold. He said the truck on its way to Louisiana. He didn't know if you could build another one for that price.

Ramah Burns asked if they can sell Engine 2.

Jason Miller said if this deal falls through they can advertise it on the internet.

Charles Pennington said he would go ahead and sell it.

Mayor Moore said TML told him the wrecked truck was ours to do with it whatever we want.

Jo Ann Wilson asked if they could start a fund for a new truck.

Charles Pennington asked Ramah Burns to call Pete Chaney, CPA and run the financing through him on how he feels about it. Depending on what he says we can call another meeting. The earliest he can be back in town is Thursday of next week.

Ronnie Moore asked if someone could call the person to see if he could hold the truck until next Friday.

Motion was made by Louis Godfrey, seconded by Ronnie Moore to sell Engine 2.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Charles Pennington, seconded by Ronnie Moore that they no not repair the wrecked truck but to bring it back here and sell it for scrap.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Recess to Executive Session at 7:40 p.m.: The Rhome City Council Will Convene Into Executive Session In Compliance With Chapter 551 Of The Texas Government Code (Open Meeting Act) Vernon's Texas Code Annotated, As Follows:

A. Section 551.074 – Personnel – Police Officer vacancy

3. Motion was made in open session at 7:54 p.m. by Jo Ann Wilson, seconded by Ronnie Moore to allow the Police Department to back fill position as they lose people.

Motion carried unanimously.

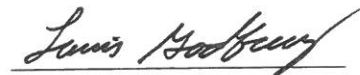
4. Motion was made by Louis Godfrey, seconded by Chris Moore to adjourn at 7:55 pm.

Motion carried unanimously

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

#### CERTIFICATION:

Passed and approved on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June 2014.



Louis Godfrey

Mayor



Ramah Burns

City Secretary