



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
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Emergency Management and Fire Services

Board Action

File #: 25-250

Commissioner Hovis - Emergency Management and Fire Services - To Approve a Certificate of Need (CON) for Tryonota Fire Department in the Amount of \$850,000.00 for a New Smeal Metro Star Engine to be Financed with United Financial Bank

STAFF CONTACT

Scott Hunter - Emergency Management and Fire Services - 704-866-3350

BUDGET IMPACT

No budget impact. No appropriation of County funds.

BACKGROUND

At the April 16th, 2025, Fire Commission Meeting, Fire Chief Mark Wright presented CON 20254302-34 on behalf of Tryonota Fire Department for a New Smeal Metro Star Engine in the amount of \$850,000.00 to be financed with United Financial Bank. Eric Withers made a motion to approve the Certificate of Need. The motion was seconded by Jamie Ramsey. The motion was passed unanimously.

POLICY IMPACT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Certificate of Need 20254302-34

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	JBailey	CBrown	CCloninger	AFrale	BHovis	TKeigher	SShehan	Vote
2025-161	05/27/2025	TK	JB	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	U

DISTRIBUTION:

Laserfiche Users

A=AYE, N=NAY, AB=ABSENT, ABS=ABSTAIN, U=UNANIMOUS



Gaston County Fire Commission



CERTIFICATE OF NEED APPLICATION

Fire Department

Name

Tryonota Fire Department

Address

2577 Tryon Courthouse Rd, Bessemer City, North Carolina 28016

Chief

Mark L Wright

Contact Phone #

(704) 813-4652

Board President

Jason Morgan

Contact Phone #

(828) 381-3238

Fire Department Board Approval / Notification

Yes

General Description of Purchase

New custom built Smeal Metro Star Engine.

Time Line of Purchase

We plan to sign a contract with Smeal as soon as we have approval of our Certificate of Need for the purchase and approval of the requested funding in our budget request. We are hoping to have a spot in Smeal's build line to be able to get a pre-2027 emissions engine which will actually reduce the total purchase price of the apparatus.

List Specifics of Purchase

Smeal Metro Star Engine equipped with a Cummins engine, a Hale Q-Max pump, 1000 gallon booster tank with a low hosebed, and with compartmentation to carry equipment to be NFPA and ISO compliant.

Estimated Cost

\$950,000.00

Financing Information

Lender

United Financial

Amount Financed

\$850,000.00

Rate

4.88%

Estimated Amount

\$8,966.00

Number of Payments

120

Down Payment Amount

\$100,000.00

Debt Ratio-Current / Post Purchase

17% / 26%

Any Re-Financing or Bundling

No

If Yes, then Describe**How Will Purchase Benefit the Department (Safety/ISO/Cost Savings, etc)**

We will be upgrading from a 1996 American Fire Eagle Engine on a Freightliner commercial Chassis which will allow us to use the 1996 as a reserve engine in the event that we have an apparatus breakdown or during extended service period allowing us to be fully equipped at all times. The new engine will provide performance and an increased pump capacity which will improve safety and performance to our firefighters and community as well as performance and reliability to our apparatus fleet.

How Will Purchase be Funded (Long Term - NOT Just Current Year)

We are requesting that the County will approve the increase the added increase that is being proposed in our budget until the terms of the loan are complete.

If Purchase is NOT Approved for Funding, Describe Department Alternatives

We will continue to operate our current 29 year old engine until future funding can be obtained to purchase a new apparatus.

Is This a Replacement?

No

If Yes, List Details (Make, Model, Years of Service, Remaining Balance, etc.)**What Will Become of Old Apparatus / Equipment?**

We plan to operate the current 1996 engine as a reserve apparatus to support our fleet with the possibility of being sold in the future.

Submit your last three 5-Year Capital Improvement Plans:**5-year Plan**

Tryonota FD Five year plan 2021 through 2026-2.xlsx

5-year Plan #2 (optional)**5-year Plan #3 (optional)****Account Balances:**

Checking
\$75,000.00

CD
\$0.00

Savings
\$70,000.00

Relief Fund
\$68,439.00

Apparatus Fund
\$100,000.00

Station 2 Building Fund
Other
\$50,000.00

UPLOAD FILE(S)

Item 1

Upload Files

2025 Engine Finance Doc..pdf

Item 2

Upload Files

2025 Engine Finance Ammended Doc.pdf

STAFF ONLY

Received By (OEMFS Director):	Date:	
Fire Commission Meeting Date:	APPROVED	NOT
	APPROVED	
Gaston County BOC Meeting Date:	APPROVED	NOT
	APPROVED	
Certificate Number		
20254302-34		