



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
www.gastongov.com

Emergency Management and Fire Services

Board Action

File #: 25-150

Commissioner Hovis - Emergency Management and Fire Services - To Approve a Certificate of Need (CON) for Agriculture Center Fire Department in the Amount of \$304,236.29 for the Purchase of MSA Airpacks (**State Grant Funded**)

STAFF CONTACT

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

BUDGET IMPACT

No budget impact. No County match required.

BACKGROUND

At the March 13, 2025, Fire Commission Meeting, Chief Towery presented Certificate of Need 20252272-29 on behalf of the Agriculture Center Fire Department for the purchase of air packs. The estimated cost is \$304,236.29 fully funded through an AFG grant. Justin Westbrook motioned to approve the Certificate of Need, with Rich Albaugh seconding. With no opposition, the motion was unanimously approved.

POLICY IMPACT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Certificate of Need 20252272-29, DRAFT - 03/13/25 Fire Commission Meeting Minutes, Rhinehart Airpack Quote

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	JBalley	CBrown	CCloninger	AFraley	BHovis	TKeigher	SShehan	Vote
2025-081	03/25/2025	BH	AF	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

Agriculture Center VFD

Address

1428 Costner School Rd., Bessemer City, North Carolina 28016

Chief

Shane Towery

Contact Phone #

(704) 502-2029

Board President

Josh Crisp

Contact Phone #

(704) 922-7241

Fire Department Board Approval / Notification

Yes

General Description of Purchase

Air Pack Replacement. Requesting Certificate of Need. We are not financing and are not requesting any additional funding.

Time Line of Purchase

With in the next 3 months.

List Specifics of Purchase

25 Air Packs and 50 Cylinders

Estimated Cost

\$304,236.29

Financing Information

Lender

N/A

Amount Financed

\$0.00

Rate

0

Estimated Amount

\$0.00

Number of Payments

0

Down Payment Amount

\$0.00

Debt Ratio-Current / Post Purchase

N/A

Any Re-Financing or Bundling

No

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

Safety

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

AFG Funding and Savings

If Purchase is NOT Approved for Funding, Describe Department Alternatives

No funding is requested.

Is This a Replacement?

Yes

If Yes, List Details (Make, Model, Years of Service, Remaining Balance, etc.)

2011 MSA Air Packs

What Will Become of Old Apparatus / Equipment?

N/A

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

CoverLetter2ACVFD.pdf

5-year Plan #2 (optional)

CoverLetter25ACVFD.docx

5-year Plan #3 (optional)

CoverLetterFY26ACVFD.docx

Account Balances:**Checking**

\$362,416.33

CD**Savings**

\$132,562.70

Relief Fund

\$56,000.00

Other**Other****UPLOAD FILE(S)****Item 1****Upload Files**

AG CENTER REGIONAL GRANT FINAL less
service.doc

STAFF ONLY

Received By (OEMFS Director):

Date:

Fire Commission Meeting Date:

Gaston County BOC Meeting Date:

Certificate Number
20252272-29

APPROVED	NOT
APPROVED	

APPROVED	NOT
APPROVED	

Gaston County Fire Commission Meeting

March 13th, 2025

The meeting was held Thursday March 13th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Emergency Operations Center located at 615 N Highland Street, Gastonia.

I. Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Rob Smith called the meeting to order. Bob Hovis made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, with the addition of the Agriculture Center's Certificate of Need 20252272-29. Richard Albaugh seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Business Agenda

A. Richard Albaugh made a motion to approve the February 20th, 2025, meeting minutes. Bob Hovis seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

B. Sub-Committee Updates

- Rescue: No update.
- Capital: No update.
- Closest Department: Justin Westbrook reported that the subcommittee met with Lucia Riverbend and Crowders Mountain to assess coverage areas within their districts. In Lucia Riverbend's district, they identified four areas within the 9E classification:
 1. **Winding Trail/Fox Run Area** – The options for coverage include establishing an engine aid agreement with Stanley Fire Department or adding a new fire station in the area.
 2. **Upper Stanley Road (Quarter-Mile Border of Alexis and Lucia)** – Coverage could be provided by shifting the district line back a quarter mile to allow Alexis Fire Department to cover the area, or by adding a new fire station.
 3. **1700 Block of Stanley Lucia Road (East Gaston/Lucia District Line)** – Since East Gaston already has a 9E classification on this stretch, they would be excluded. Coverage options include an engine aid agreement with Stanley Fire Department or constructing a new fire station.
 4. **Dead End of Mountain Island Lake (Riverside Dr/Horseshoe Bend Beach Rd Area)** – The only feasible coverage option is an engine aid agreement with Mount Holly Fire Department.

The subcommittee would like to pair this review with East Gaston's assessment, but due to mapping issues, they will need to wait to address all the changes at once.

For Crowders Mountain, two key areas were identified:

1. **Foy Road (off Linwood Rd)** – Currently a 9E area, but Gastonia Engine 8 can provide coverage within the five-mile response radius. Crowders Mountain is comfortable with an engine aid agreement for this area.
2. **Canterbury Rd (Kings Mountain)** – Crowders Mountain plans to discuss coverage options with Kings Mountain Fire Department.

Additionally, they discussed the impact of potentially losing Crowders Mountain Station 2. If that happens, a new 9E area would emerge, covering the golf course area from Peaceful Leaf to Bessemer City. The Bessemer City Fire Department could provide full coverage for that area. The subcommittee recommends moving forward with these discussions. Director Hunter will send a letter to the affected departments. Bob Hovis motioned to proceed with communication to Bessemer City Fire Department with Richard Albaugh seconding. None opposed. The motion was passed unanimously.

- C. Fire Service Agreement Update: Scott Hunter reported that the latest version of the contract, returned by the Fire Chiefs and Keith Bost, is still under review and has been sent to their attorney. He distributed a marked-up copy to the Fire Commission for review, and the Commission discussed the highlighted sections.

Highlighted Parts Discussed:

Section 1 – Definitions – Approved Merger, Certificate of Need, Effective Date, Fire Commission, Municipal Takeover

Section 3 – Services Furnished by the Department – Medical Response

Section 5 – Department's Non-Profit Corporation Status 501C4

Section 11 – Books and Records

Section 17 – Annual Financial Audit

Section 23 – NIMS

Section 27 – Municipal Takeover

Section 30 – Certificate of Need

This highlighted copy will be added to the Fire Commission's Shared Drive for further review.

Regarding budgets, a revised timeline will be issued due to the delayed submission of fire budgets.

IV. **New/Old Business**

- V. Chief Towery presented **Certificate of Need 20252272-29** on behalf of the Agriculture Center Fire Department for the purchase of air packs. The estimated cost is **\$304,236.29** fully funded through an AFG grant. Justin Westbrook motioned to approve the Certificate of Need, with Rich Albaugh seconding. With no opposition, the motion was unanimously approved.

- VI. Scott Hunter stated that the **Capital Need Requirements** wording should be updated to read, "**Any funds requested from the Reserve Fund.**" Richard Albaugh motioned to approve the change, with Eric Withers seconding. The motion passed unanimously with no opposition.
- VII. The budget meeting with Fire Chief presentations will be held **April 16th, 2025, starting at 5:00 PM.** The Fire Commission will have a closed work session prior, on **April 9th** to review budgets.
- VIII. **Adjournment**
Motion to adjourn by Richard Albaugh, seconded by Eric Withers. The motion was approved unanimously.

QUOTE

RHINEHART FIRE SERVICES

22 Piney Park Rd., Asheville NC 28806
Office 828-273-1789
Cell Phone 704-604-2492
jody@rhinehartfire.com

DATE 06/04/2024

EXPIRATION DATE 8/07/2024

TO AG CENTER FIRE DEPARTMENT
ATTN CHIEF TOWERY

SAME

SALESPERSON	JOB	PAYMENT TERMS	DUE DATE
JODY BROWN		NET 10	

QTY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	LINE TOTAL
25	SCOTT#X8815026305A04 Air-Pak X3 Pro SCBA (2018 Edition) with CGA Cylinder Connection, 5500 psig, Standard Harness with Parachute Buckles, Standard Belt, E-Z Flo C5 Regulator with Quick Disconnect Hose (Rectus-type fittings), Universal EBSS Accessory Hose, PASS DEVICE, Packaged 2 SCBA Per Box LIST PRICE \$11543.96	6827.06	170676.50
25	ADD ON SEMS ELECTRONIC PASS DEVICE OPTION (NOT REQUIRED BUT ALMOST 2500.00 TO ADD AFTER FACT) LIST PRICE \$118.78	98.67	2466.75
50	SCOTT#200930-01 CYLINDER & VALVE, CARBON, 5.5, 30-MIN, CGA LIST PRICE \$1774.88	1265.47	63273.50
50	SCOTT#FP1MK0000000000 VISION C5, MEDIUM WITH KEVLAR HEADNET LIST PRICE 517.49	348.87	17443.50
3	SCOTT#201564-32 RIT-PAK FAST ATTACK, 5.5, MEDIUM, VISION C5 (Rectus-type Fittings) LIST PRICE \$3930.50	2644.15	7932.45
3	SCOTT#201568-01 CYLINDER & 90° VALVE, CARBON, 5.5, 45-MIN, CGA LIST PRICE \$2105.71	1419.58	3790.29
25	SCOTT 2024 NFPA UPGRADE KITS INSTALLED AT YOUR LOCATION ONCE NEW NFPA UPGRADE KITS ARE AVAILABLE	750.00	18750.00
50	INSTALL CUSTOMER SUPPLIED PATCH UNDER LOGO (ALL CYLINDERS EXCEPT RIT CYLINDERS) LIST PRICE \$95.00	INCLUDED	ABOVE
	ALL PRICING BASED ON NCSA CONTRACT#24-01-0524R		

UNLESS NOTED ABOVE PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE ANY APPLICABLE TAX
OR SHIPPING CHARGES, CREDIT CARD PAYMENT FEE OF 3% WILL BE APPLIED

SUBTOTAL	284332.99
SALES TAX	19903.30
TOTAL	304236.29

Quotation prepared by: JODY BROWN REGIONAL SALE PERSON RHINEHART FIRE SERVICES, INC. _____

This is a quotation on the goods named, subject to the conditions noted below: (Describe any conditions pertaining to these prices and any additional terms of the agreement. You may want to include contingencies that will affect the quotation.)

To accept this quotation, sign here and return: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!
