



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
MEMO

To: **Financial Affairs Committee**

From: **James Case, Fire Chief**

Date: **March 3, 2025**

Subject: **Request by the Fire Department to approve an emergency tower repair and a Level 3 fund transfer.**

A. Issue

The fire department is requesting approval for an emergency ladder truck repair, reallocation of funds, and a level 3 fund transfer. Due to the urgency of the repair, it was completed using emergency purchasing rules without obtaining three quotes.

B. Background/Options

During routine maintenance, the fire department mechanic discovered oil in the coolant, which could lead to overheating and potential clogging of the cooling system. Additionally, coolant was likely entering the oil, posing a significant risk of lubrication failure and potentially causing catastrophic engine damage. Oil analysis further revealed bearing wear, raising concerns about the engine's overall health. Upon disassembly, many components showed signs of coolant-induced pitting, with the cylinder liners showing the most severe damage, which contributed to the oil and coolant mixing. The final cost was higher than the initial quote due to the severity of the damage, which was not fully apparent at the time of the initial estimate.

These repairs were beyond the scope of our mechanic, so the vehicle was taken to Interstate Power Systems, a local heavy truck repair facility. After a discussion with Director Ruggini and the finance staff, we approved the repairs utilizing emergency purchasing rules. These rules require approval by the common council as soon as possible. The final repair cost was \$52,518.98.

C. Strategic Plan (Area of Focus)

Infrastructure

D. Fiscal Impact

These costs will be absorbed utilizing leftover funds from replacing three staff vehicles. There is approximately \$31,000 remaining in the replacement vehicle project and the balance will be paid with budgeted operating funds. We are requesting a fund transfer of \$31,624.38 from the replacement vehicle project to the fire department equipment repair account.

E. Recommendation

Recommend approval of the emergency work and a level 3 fund transfer from project 6685 to 10220000-6206 in the amount of \$31,624.38.