



PIONEER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

FIRE • RESCUE • EMS



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NEW WATER TENDER

For years the Pioneer Fire Protection District has recognized the need to prove a more efficient emergency water delivery/supply system within our fire protection district. We have evaluated and analyzed what would be the most cost effective, while providing an efficient water delivery system for our entire district. We reviewed and discussed the following options:

- Providing several rural hydrant systems throughout our district
 - Cost to provide a system in the Somerset/Fairplay area would be in excess of \$1,000,000.00 dollars. In addition we would need to provide more hydrants in several other district communities.
- Provide an established drafting tank/system throughout the district
- Provide an efficient mobile water system to help support our 30-year-old water tender
- Support our current fire water storage tank program (Building ordinance)
- Continue to search out other options

After reviewing and analyzing our needs and options, we chose to seek out the purchase of a new water tender and apply for smaller state grants to help support static water supply systems (tanks/ponds, pre-designated water supply sites).

Phase one:

Prepare and apply for grants to provide a water tender, all have been unsuccessful to date.

Phase two:

Prepare and draft a proposal to the County Board of Supervisors approving the use of our (state funds received) development fees of (\$200,000.00). Current reserve balance of \$237,000.00, these state fees have been collecting since the late 1980s. In addition, development funds can only be utilized to support growth in a special district (infrastructure not personnel).

After obtaining support from the CAO's office, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the use of our development fees to purchase a water tender. In addition, the PVFA, GFFSC, AFFSC, ORFSC and our Board of Directors wrote letters of support to our BOS.

Phase three:

Support our tank ordinance and current water tank system and apply for smaller grants to obtain, portable and stationary water pumps to help supply water from residential water tanks, ponds (pre designated draft sites), small creeks and tributaries more efficiently. Upgrade our water supply tanks in the following locations: PFPD fire Stations 31 Willow, Station 32 Sandridge, Station 34 Mt. Aukum and Station 37 Omo Ranch. In addition, upgrade and maintain larger water tanks on SPI property and throughout the district.

Since the district was unsuccessful with phase one (obtaining a water tender grant), we moved forward with phase two and after the BOD and BOS approve the funding use, we have ordered a custom 2400-gallon water tender with an expected delivery date of early December (anticipated placing into service by the end of January 2021). In addition, we have applied for a state grant to purchase 11 gas powered water supply pumps.

Why a new custom water tender vs a used water tender?

We were able to design/spec a new water tender that would fit PFPD needs in lieu of trying to find a used water tender that may fit our needs (within our funding). Most used water tenders that were available (that were less than 6 years old) with less than 80K miles on them ranged from 170k to 300K. Plus, the new water tender comes with warranties, the used do not!

Why a water tender vs more static water tanks?

Water tenders allow us to deliver the water right to the fire! Most water tanks require us to drive a distance and tie up a fire truck to draft from them. Providing a second water tender should help get the needed water to the fire 10 to 20 minutes sooner throughout the district.

How much water does a fire engine carry?

Fire engine water tanks range from 300 gallons to 1000; our fire engines range from 300 (smaller brush/patrol engines) to 650 gallons of water (larger engines). This allows us to flow 3 to 6 minutes of required water on a one or two room house fire (10% to 15% involve in fire) or 5 to 10 minutes on a small vegetation fire. It would take a minimum of 4 engines to provide as much water as our new water tender can provide. When both water tenders respond it carries as much water as 9 fire engines.

Will the water tender be able to fight fire too?

Yes, it is a tactical tender. It will carry an enough hose to help suppress a fire if needed in that role.

What's the large pipe/valve in the back of a water tender and what's a fold a tank?

A large fold a tank can be unfolded and used as a portable tank. The fold a tank on the new water tender holds 2100 gallons of water. The large pipe/valve in the back of the water tender is to fill the fold a tank.

What is the fold a tank used for?

On larger fires the fold a tank is put into use like a portable tank. Water tenders unload their water into the tank, while another fire engine or a portable pump draft from the fold a tank to supply fire apparatus, allowing the water tender to unload its water quickly (2 to 3 minutes) and leave to refill; leaving water at the fire scene.

Does it take a special license to drive a water tender?

Yes, we do all the training in house and our personnel are required to take and pass the DMV firefighter endorsement test.

Why 2400 gallon water tender and not a 3000 gallon water tender?

Due to our road grades, narrow roads, and challenging locations. We needed a single axle vehicle with a tight turning radius, ability to navigate narrow roads, tight corners and driveway; while having enough power to pull our grades. A 3000-gallon water tender would require twin axles with the same horse power (plus cost more). The turning radius is much larger and the extra weight pulls grades slower and wears on breaks and chaise more.

What is the cost to the district?

.0775% of the \$200,000.00

Mark S. Matthews, Fire Chief