



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

144 North Binkley Street • Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7520

Toll-free within the Borough: 1-800-478-4441

PHONE: (907) 262-4441 • FAX: (907) 262-1892

www.kpb.us

MIKE NAVARRE
BOROUGH MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Blaine Gilman, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

THRU: Mike Navarre, Mayor *MN*
Craig Chapman, Finance Director *CA*
Valentina Sustaita, Acting Purchasing and Contracting Director *V. Sustaita*

FROM: James Baisden - NFSA Fire Chief *90B*
Roy Browning - CES Fire Chief *REB*

DATE: May 5, 2016

SUBJECT: Ordinance 2016-17, An Ordinance Approving a Policy Supporting the Standardization of Manufacturers' Brands of Fire Apparatus and Ambulances for the Nikiski Fire Service Area and Central Emergency Service Area, and Amending KPB 5.28.280(B) to Allow for Purchases Without Competition when in Accordance with Standardization Policies Approved by the Assembly (Mayor)

Central Emergency Service and Nikiski Fire Service Area would like to standardize the fire apparatus and ambulance vehicles. The benefits of standardization will be reduction in training and maintenance costs while increasing productivity and operational safety for department personnel.

Operation of emergency apparatus has become very complicated. These pieces of equipment require extensive training by volunteers and employees to operate the apparatus safely and efficiently.

There is a considerable amount of training and experience involved in becoming a competent driver/operator of emergency response vehicles. Keeping the fire apparatus and ambulances closely standardized as much as possible will assure a smoother transition for the fire service areas, and reduce the amount of extra training time that would be required for all personnel.

During mutual aid responses, having every fire apparatus and ambulance at CES and NFSA standardized provides a level of safety for the patient and emergency responder as department personnel may be working with each other on an emergency scene. With incidents such as the wildland fires experienced over the past few years, standardization allows personnel to work together on large fires efficiently, providing the best possible service to the citizens of each area. One ultimate goal of this standardization is ensure the health and safety of all emergency responders to the best extent possible.

The cost of maintaining a standardized fleet of fire apparatus makes financial sense in current fiscal times the borough is encountering. Both departments will be able to have replacement parts that are interchangeable ensuring operational needs are met in both areas. Maintenance manuals, tools, and the cost of educating personnel will be minimized while enhancing the safety of department personnel as they are already familiar with the same standardized apparatus and ambulances.

It is expected that these purchases will be made using government cooperative purchasing organizations to obtain the best competitive pricing.

This is proposed for an initial trial period of five years.