



City of New Bedford
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Mayor Announces Plan For Purchase of New Fire Apparatus

New Bedford, Massachusetts – Mayor Jon Mitchell announced a plan today to purchase two new fire apparatus for the New Bedford Fire Department (NBFD), allowing the NBFD to remove from frontline service two antiquated pumpers that first came into service more than twenty years ago.

With this purchase the Mayor and the City Council will have invested nearly \$2.3 million in public safety infrastructure over the past year. The City replaced a number of aging vehicles including police cruisers, ambulances, a fire rescue boat, and command vehicles. The addition of the new pumpers will reduce the average age of the NBFD fleet by three years.

“For several years, there has been an obvious need to replace fire apparatus. The City purchased its last engine five years ago and the average age of the fleet now stands at 13 years. The principal challenge has always been finding a way to fund the purchase of new vehicles while living within the City’s means,” said the Mayor.

He added, “The City’s new Chief Financial Officer brought a wealth of experience to this problem, allowing the City to research and explore a number of financing mechanisms. Under the terms of a lease-purchase contract being submitted to the City Council, we will acquire the new pumpers at very favorable interest rates while avoiding transaction costs.”

“Mayor Mitchell recognizes the importance of the Fire Department having the tools it needs to be able to protect the public. The progress we made in acquiring the apparatus was a team effort and would not have been possible without the support of the Mayor and his staff, the Chief Financial Officer Ari Sky, and the City’s Purchasing Agent Deb Travers,” said New Bedford Fire Department Chief Michael Gomes.

Chief Financial Officer Ari Sky added, “Acquiring replacement pumpers was an urgent necessity. The challenge was to structure the purchase in way that was affordable to the City.”

The Mayor also announced his intention to present the City Council with additional measures to address equipment and facility needs as part of the long-term capital plan being developed by his Administration. Mayor Mitchell stressed the importance of maintaining the city's public safety infrastructure so that residents can count on receiving assistance in emergency situations.

"The first job of government is to protect people's lives and property and I take that responsibility very seriously," said Mayor Mitchell.

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