



# TOWN COUNCIL – AGENDA REQUEST FORM

THIS FORM WILL BECOME PART OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION USED BY THE COUNCIL AND PUBLIC

Please submit Agenda Request Form, **including back up information**, 8 days prior to the requested meeting date. **Public Hearing requests must be submitted 20 days prior to requested meeting date to meet publication deadlines** (exceptions may be authorized by the Town Manager, Chairman/Vice Chair).

## MEETING INFORMATION

Date Submitted: March 4, 2021  
Submitted by: Fire Chief Matthew Duke  
Department: Fire  
Speakers: Matthew Duke

Date of Meeting: March 11, 2021  
Time Required: 25 minutes  
Background Info. Supplied: Yes:  No:

## CATEGORY OF BUSINESS (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Appointment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recognition/Resignation/Retirement:	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Public Hearing:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Old Business:	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Business:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consent Agenda:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nonpublic:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>

## TITLE OF ITEM

Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) Account Withdrawal Request

## DESCRIPTION OF ITEM

The Town Council to consider Merrimack Fire Rescue's request to withdrawal \$157,000 from the Ambulance CRF to replace and upgrade all three of the ambulance stretcher systems which are used to decrease injuries and provide a safer transition for the patient into the ambulance.

## REFERENCE (IF KNOWN)

RSA:	Warrant Article:	_____
Charter Article:	Town Meeting:	_____
Other:	N/A	

## EQUIPMENT REQUIRED (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Projector:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grant Requirements:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easel:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joint Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special Seating:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laptop:	<input type="checkbox"/>	None:	<input type="checkbox"/>

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:	<u>Matthew Duke</u>	Address:	<u>432 DW Highway</u>
Phone Number:	<u>424-3690</u>	Email Address:	<u>mduke@merrimacknh.gov</u>

## APPROVAL

Town Manager: Yes  No:  Chair/Vice Chair: Yes  No:



## **MERRIMACK FIRE RESCUE**

432 Daniel Webster Highway  
Merrimack New Hampshire 03054  
603.424.3690 ♣ Fax 603.424.0603

**Fire Chief**  
Matthew J. Duke

**Assistant Fire Chief**  
Richard N. Harris

**Assistant Fire Chief**  
Shawn P. Brechtel

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### **Upgrading the Three Fire Department Ambulances with Power Lift Systems**

Merrimack Fire Rescue is proposing to replace and upgrade all three of the ambulance stretcher systems we presently use in an effort to decrease injuries and provide a safer transition for the patient into the ambulance. While we currently have power lift stretchers, the full weight of the stretcher and patient must be manually lifted and transferred into the ambulance. In recent years, the Department personnel have experienced injuries related to this manual loading process, including two injuries with a combined cost to the community exceeding \$200,000. These injuries were directly related to the ergonomics of lifting and loading stretchers into the ambulance. With the purchase and installation of the proposed power lifting/loading systems, once a patient is on the stretcher, personnel will no longer have to manually lift the combined weight of the stretcher and patient.

#### **Purchase**

- 3 Power Ambulance Stretchers
- 3 Power Load systems
- 3 Stair Chairs
- Warranty, Certifications for all equipment (7 yrs. Parts and labor)

#### **Why power load systems?**

- Increase safety for patient and the employees
- Decrease costly injuries to our employees
  - Two injuries cost the community over \$200,000
- Lower liability to the community

#### **What will the systems do for us?**

- Save on injuries
- Ensure safety to patient and employee by lifting and lowering
  - System lifts up to 850 lbs.
- The lift system is transferrable into future ambulances

**Project costs:**

Stryker equipment with warranty	\$ 151,997.76
Install 3 power load systems	\$ 5,000.00
Total	\$156,997.76

**Project to be funded by the Ambulance Capital Reserve account:**

With our current fleet of ambulances and staying in line with our replacement schedule we will have the necessary funds in the ambulance capital reserve account to pay for this upgrade. This allows for the needed upgrade to occur without impacting the operating budget or EMS supply budget within the Fire Department. The short term costs far outweigh the long term potential injury and liability. In addition, the loading systems are transferable when we purchase a new ambulance until their service life is exceeded.

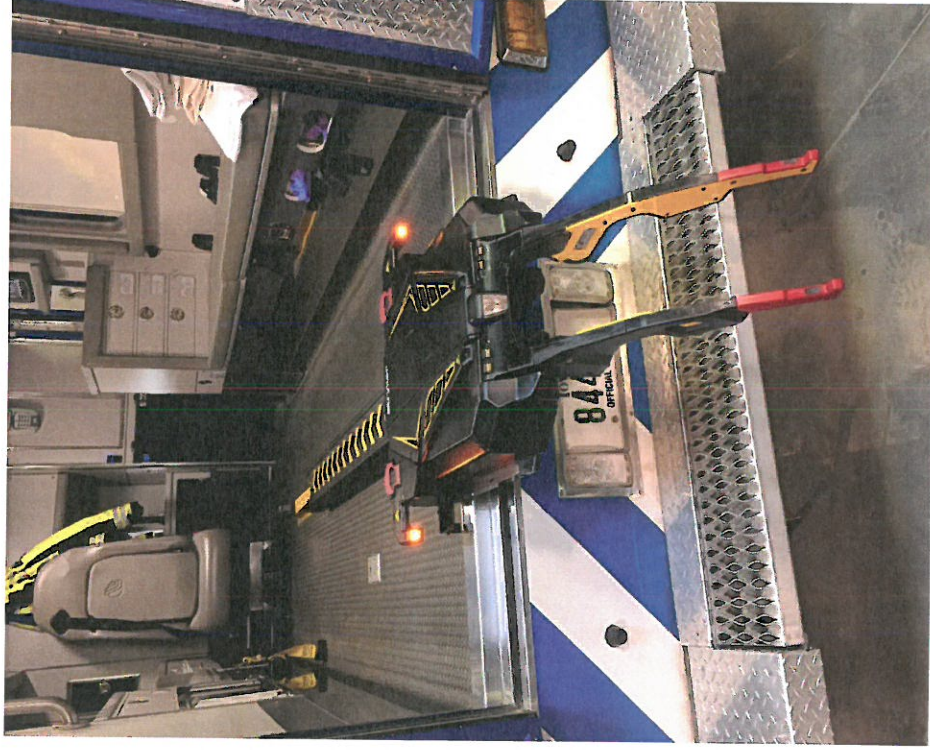
# Upgrading Merrimack Fire/Rescue Ambulances With Power Lifting Systems

*These safe, efficient systems ensure safety for personnel and the patient.  
We will be upgrading all ambulances for interoperability*

## Why do we need the power lift systems?

- Increase employee and patient safety
- Decrease injury potential
- The Department has experienced very costly injuries in the recent past
- Moving patients will be safer during all weather and ground conditions
- Reduce community liability

**Cot Lift/Load Module**



**Lift/Load Module with Cot Locked In**



## What will the systems do for us?

- Save on injuries
- Ensure safety of personnel and patients
- This system will
  - Lift the patient and the stretcher
  - Lower the patient and the stretcher
  - Load limit of 850 lbs.

## What will we be getting?

- 3 New Stryker power stretchers
- 3 New Power Load Systems
- 3 New Stair Chairs
- Warranty and Service Plan for 7 Years
- Stretchers and Load Systems are transferrable into new Ambulances



## Stryker Warranty Package

- No additional costs
- Initial on-site training provided
- Additional refresher training provided at a later date
- Yearly safety inspections and preventative maintenance included
- On-site repairs
- No charge for labor and parts

# Costs

• New Stryker Equipment and Warranty	\$151,997.76
• Install 3 Power Load Units in Ambulances	\$5,000.00
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• Total Expense	\$156,997.76

(Funding to come from Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund)

## Conclusion

- The purchase and installation of the Stryker Power Load Systems will decrease the potential for costly injury to our personnel and patients
- Injury costs from recent stretcher loading/unloading incidents exceeds the total cost of this proposed upgrade
- These systems will enhance the efficiency of our EMS operations
- Purchase will be made from the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund
- We recommend going forward with the purchase and installation of the Stryker Power Load Systems.

**Questions/Comments?**