

06-19-2019 Town Council Meeting
Responses to Council Questions #1

ITEM #2: Approve the Year-End Miscellaneous Budget Ordinance Amendments to Adjust Various Fund Budgets for FY 2018-19

Council Question: Why did the fire truck engine need to be replaced? Was this on the used truck we bought a year or so ago? Is there a likelihood that other engines in the fire fleet will need to be replaced soon? Or was this engine a one-time fluke?

Staff Response: *The engine on this apparatus needed to be replaced due to the failure of two cylinder rocker arms. This failure damaged critical functional components of the engine.*

No, this apparatus was not the apparatus bought a year ago. This particular apparatus was purchased used, in 2012, from a volunteer fire department in Virginia. While our inspection at the time was thorough, we do not know for certain to what level it was maintained during the first 8 years of its life. The engine performed without issue until the day it failed.

The engine that failed is a "Detroit Diesel Series 60". These engines went out of production in 2011 so finding replacement parts to repair them is becoming more difficult as time passes. We considered waiting on replacement parts however the parts needed for the repair are backordered indefinitely. We also learned anecdotally that there were three other trucks, with the same engine type, at the shop in Greensboro awaiting the same type of repair. These trucks have been out of service for about six months waiting for parts.

CHFD currently has three other apparatus in our fleet with the same engine. We have not seen this same type of engine failure in any of the other apparatus previously. We have however made significant repairs to two of the other apparatus.

Our Public Works Department maintains a sound apparatus and vehicle maintenance program. We have been working with our Public Works Fleet colleagues to develop a strategic data driven fleet replacement plan that ensures we maintain reliability of our emergency response fleet in the most cost effective manner.