



City of Saginaw

City of Saginaw

Meeting Date: 8/15/2017

Staff Contact: Doug Spears
Fire Chief

Agenda Item: 4c
(CC-0817-12)

E-mail: dspears@saginawtx.org

Phone: 817-230-0412

SUBJECT: Action regarding Donation and Transfer of Title for 1985 American LaFrance Fire Truck to Texas Fire Museum

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

This item is for approval of the transfer of the title for the 1985 American LaFrance Fire Truck to the Texas Fire Museum. The City Council voted on September 18, 2007 to loan this truck to the museum. The truck is on display at the museum and it is recommended that the title be transferred to give the museum legal ownership of the truck. Additional details regarding the truck are included in the attachments.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the donation and transfer of the title for the 1985 American LaFrance Fire Truck to the Texas Fire Museum

Attachments

Memo with Attachments from Doug Spears
Minutes of September 18, 2007 City Council Minutes



Saginaw Fire Department

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DOUG SPEARS
FIRE CHIEF

TO: Interim City Manager Dan O’Leary

FROM: Fire Chief Doug Spears

DATE: August 9, 2017

RE: Cleanup Item – Fire Truck Donation to the Texas Fire Museum

I was recently contacted by a representative of the Texas Fire Museum in Dallas to finalize a Saginaw fire truck donation that occurred in 2007 with the ownership title transfer anticipated to occur in 2010. Please see the accompanying September 2007 memo.

During 2007 our department attempted, unsuccessfully, to sell our retired 1985 American LaFrance fire engine through an apparatus broker. Due to the storied history of this manufacturer and this particular model, Fire Chief Bob Harvey, my predecessor, arranged for the truck to be donated to the museum. In 2010 the truck became eligible to be registered as an “antique” exempting it from inspection and the ideal time to transfer the title to the museum. With our Fire Chief change occurring in 2010 and changes in museum personnel this item was simply overlooked until the museum staff recently reviewed their records. The museum has a tremendous desire to retain the apparatus and accept the title transfer of ownership.

We have researched the minutes of the Council meetings from the time period in 2007 and could not find any evidence of formal Council action regarding the loan, donation or title transfer of the apparatus to the museum, only the aforementioned memo. It is my recommendation, upon Council approval, that we permit the museum to retain the apparatus and legally transfer the ownership to them.

TO: City Manager Nan Stanford
FROM: Fire Chief Bob Harvey
DATE: September 12, 2007
SUBJECT: 1985 American LaFrance Fire Engine

As you recall, after we had the 1981 Sutphen Ladder Tower refurbished last year we had decided to sell the 1985 American LaFrance fire engine. We then contracted with a used fire apparatus dealer in Houston to help sell the truck, with his commission being based on a percentage of the selling price. Several pictures of the apparatus were posted on his web site along with the information about the vehicle, but so far there has been no one interested in purchasing this apparatus.

A few months ago, I contacted a representative from the Texas Fire Museum, which is located in Dallas, to see about the possibility of donating the truck to the museum. They were interested in the apparatus, but at the time had no room to store or display it. In addition, without the vehicle being classified as an "antique" (25 or more years old), the cost for them to maintain the vehicle's license and registration was not within their budget. They were familiar with our vehicle and its history (being one of, if not the last apparatus that was manufactured by the original American LaFrance Corporation before it stopped making fire trucks in 1985), and thought that it would be a great addition to the museum.

Last week, I received a call from Scott Simpson, Project Manager with the Texas Fire Museum, and wanted to know if we were still interested in donating or displaying the truck at the museum. They now have room for the apparatus if we were still interested. Basically, we would retain ownership of the vehicle until it became 25 years old and could be registered as an “antique vehicle”, then, if we wanted to donate it to the museum they would be willing to accept it. In the meantime, we would still be carrying the insurance and registration on the vehicle. In addition, they would maintain the vehicle and it would be available for us to use for parades or other city functions, as would other pieces of antique fire apparatus the museum now has.

Currently, this vehicle is being housed at Fire Station #2, along with the quint, tanker, and brush truck assigned to that station. The apparatus room at this station was built to only house three vehicles, so housing it there completely fills up one of the drive-thru bays. It currently is in need of some major pump repairs and the water tank has developed a leak as well. If it were to be sold, it would probably only sell for around \$5,000 to \$10,000 at most, if we had someone interested in purchasing it. With all the grant funding that has been given out over the past five years for new fire apparatus, many smaller departments that could only afford used trucks in the past are now able to buy new ones. This has also resulted in an overabundance of used trucks on the market as well.

American LaFrance began manufacturing fire apparatus in 1832 from its facilities in Elmira, New York, and remained in business for 153 years. In 1985, it finally closed its doors. But the following year, the company was purchased by the Freightliner Corporation, and a year later was again manufacturing fire apparatus under the name of American LaFrance, but from a facility in South Carolina. As I stated earlier, our truck was actually one of the last, if not “the last” original American LaFrance trucks to be manufactured from the original facility located Elmira, New York.

This truck is a very important part of the history of the Fire Service in America, and I highly recommend that the City Council consider placing this apparatus “on loan” for display at the Texas Fire Museum until it becomes old enough to be classified as an “antique” vehicle. At that time, the council can decide if they want to donate it to the museum where it will remain on permanent display.

- (6) CC-0907-19
Consideration and action regarding donating the 1985 American
LaFrance Fire Engine to the Fire Museum of Texas

Chief Bob Harvey presented a request to donate the 1985 American LaFrance Fire Engine to the Fire Museum of Texas. City Attorney Meredith suggested that the fire engine be on loan to the museum.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Flory with a second by Councilmember Bevill to place the 1985 American LaFrance Fire Engine on loan to the Fire Museum of Texas. Motion carried unanimously.