

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

9TH FEBRUARY 2009

1. PROPOSED VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME 2009/12

Joint report of the A/Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer.

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT the Committee approve the proposed Brigade Vehicle Replacement Programme (VRP) for the 3 year period 2009/12, the detail of which is set out in the main body of the report. Appendix 1 identifies the projected capital costs and the year in which the vehicles are estimated to be delivered.
- 1.2 THAT the Committee note that it is intended to procure the range of vehicles identified in the VRP using FiReBuy, Office of Government Commerce (OGC) and other approved Consortia routes that represent value for money to the Authority.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is submitted to seek the Committee's approval to proceed with the proposed Brigade VRP for the 3 year financial period 2009/12, in line with the above recommendations.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Officers based at Transport Engineering Workshops (TEW) using their professional skills and judgements have carried out an annual review of the ongoing Vehicle Replacement Procurement Plan (VRP). After taking account of the age profile, use and agreed replacement timeframe and review periods for the vehicle fleet, a proposed VRP for the 3 year financial period 2009/12 has been prepared and is attached at Appendix 1 for consideration and recommendation for approval by Members.

- 3.2 The following age profiles and review periods were used to determine the type and number of vehicles in the fleet recommended for replacement during the next 3 financial years (2009/12):-

Vehicle	Replacement (Years)
Pump Rescue Ladders	13
Hydraulic Platform	15
Pump Rescue Water Towers	15
Prime Mover's 3 axle	15
Demountable Units	20
Large Vans Mercedes/Transit/Iveco	9
Large Vans/minibus LDV	7
PCV/PMB/G vehicles	9
Cars/Vans	7
Hybrid (Petrol/Electric) cars	5
Provided Car for CFO	3
Bobcat	15
General Purpose Lorry	15

	Review Period (Years)
Coach	10
Trailers/Fuel Bowser	15
Command Support Vehicles	12
Targeted Response Vehicle	8

3.3 Pump Rescue Ladders

In relation to the PRLs, the Service currently has an operational fleet of 86 appliances. As stated at paragraph 3.2 above, these particular vehicles have a replacement life of 13 years (10 years frontline, 3 years reserve fleet).

- 3.4 To achieve a full fleet replacement of the PRLs within the 13 year period, the annual replacement programme has been based on replacing 6 appliances per year for 9 years and 8 appliances per year for 4 years, giving a total of 86. The first of the 4 financial years in which it is proposed to purchase 8 PRLs per annum will be 2010/11.

3.5 Therefore, it is recommended that during the 3 year VRP for 2009/12 a total of 22 PRLs be procured based on 6 PRLs during 2009/10 and 8 PRLs during the 2 subsequent years.

3.6 Members' attention is drawn to the fact that the 6 PRLs for 2009/10, identified in paragraph 3.5, were included as part of the tender process undertaken via the FiReBuy framework agreement for the provision of 12 PRLs, which was previously approved by the Authority in June 2008. Due to financial and commercial reasons the company supplying the Dennis chassis and cab has recently withdrawn from the FiReBuy framework contract. Therefore, it will be necessary for the Service to identify and evaluate alternative chassis/cabs that will meet our end user and operational needs. This evaluation is underway and a further report relating to this issue will be submitted to the Authority shortly.

3.8 Special Appliances

3.8.1 Aerial Appliances

Currently the aerial appliance fleet stands at 7, 4 frontline and 3 reserves.

The current replacement programme provides for an aerial appliance to be replaced during 2009/10 and 2011/12.

3.8.2 Demountable Units

The fleet of demountable units stands at a total of 32. There is currently a requirement to replace the Exhibition Unit in 2009/10 and 2 BA Main Control Units in 2011/12.

3.9 Ancillary Vehicles

The ancillary fleet of vehicles currently stands at 105 vehicles and 13 specialised trailers.

Following the full review of the ancillary fleet during 2008/09, the following vehicles fall due for replacement within the current 3 year plan:-

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Total
Large Vans	1	2	5	8
Small Vans	2	24	0	26
Cars	6	1	1	8
Personnel Carriers (PCV)	3	0	4	7
Multi-Purpose Vehicles (MPV)	1	0	1	2
Specialist Trailers	0	3	0	3

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 4.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and a Full Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out. The matters contained in this report do not relate to a policy change.
- 4.2 The tender and evaluation process will encompass equality and diversity issues in relation to requirements of the companies invited to tender and the provision of the vehicles and in the tenders themselves in areas such as seat adjustment and type of seat belts, height access to vehicles, manual handling and compliance with DDA requirements appropriate to the intended use of vehicle/s.

5. **TRADE UNION CONSULTATION**

The representative bodies have been advised of the intended 3 year VRP and will be consulted by the Service during the stakeholder engagement process during which the tender specification documents are drawn up.

6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The course of action recommended in this report does not raise issues which should be drawn to the attention of the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

7. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Within the Authority's proposed capital programme provisional funding of £2.290m (2009/10), £2.152m (2010/11) and £2.809m (2011/12) has been identified to meet the proposed vehicle replacement programme set out in this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence Authority Report – February 2004
5 year VRP Review 2008/13 Documentation – TEW files

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A/CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

L BATEMAN
TREASURER

PROPOSED VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME 2009/12

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Total
Operational				
Pump Rescue Ladders	6*	8	8	22
Aerial Appliances	1	0	1	2
Prime Movers	0	0	0	0
Demountable Units	1	0	2	3
Ancillary				
Large Vans	1	2	5	8
Small Vans	2	24	0	26
Cars	6	1	1	8
Personnel Carriers (PCV)	3	0	4	7
Multi-Purpose Vehicles (MPV)	1	5	5	11
Safety Demonstration Trailers	0	3	0	3
Skid Car Frame	1	0	0	1
PROJECTED TOTAL	£2.290m	£2.152m	£2.809m	£7.251m

* *Estimated delivery 6 PRLs from 2008/09 is late 2009 and 6 PRLs 2009/10 March 2010.*