

Responses to Council Questions and Comments

1/27/2025

Item #4: Resolution Accepting the Donation of a Pre-Owned Type 3 Wildland Fire Engine from Marin County Fire Department

- **Question:** Why is Marin County giving the fire engine away? Does the engine have a history of high maintenance needs that could result in additional costs to Petaluma?
 - **Response:** Marin County is offering the engine to Petaluma free of charge because it is no longer fully suitable for daily wildland fire response in Marin County but still has value for less frequent use in Petaluma such as upstaffing during red flag conditions or as backup for wildland fires. Marin County is offering the engine to Petaluma as part of their collaborative relationship in which mutual aid is reciprocated between agencies during large events. Before being put into service, the engine will go through a thorough maintenance inspection to ensure it's safe and reliable for its new role, with no significant ongoing maintenance concerns. This way, Petaluma can better respond to wildfires when needed without taking on unnecessary costs or risks.
- **Question:** Will the type 3 Wildland engine be used for out of the County fire support? In what areas of the City, would the PFD use a Type 3 Wildland engine for? Or would/could this be revenue resource for the City? To assist in other communities?
 - **Response:** Petaluma's need for a Type 3 wildland fire engine is particularly important for its west-side hills and the wildland-urban interface areas, where wildfires can pose a significant risk. The 2022 Center for Public Safety Management report highlighted this need, and having a dedicated engine will greatly improve the city's ability to respond to such fires. Additionally, this engine will not only serve Petaluma's local needs but also contribute to mutual aid efforts with other local departments, including Marin County. Being eligible for state-wide deployment as part of the OES (Office of Emergency Services) master mutual aid program is also a huge benefit. Petaluma could potentially receive reimbursement and generate revenue through this program, which helps offset costs while strengthening its overall wildfire response capabilities.