



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

10 Main Street
605-394-4180
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RE: Four Wheel Drive Ambulance Specifications – Written Determination that Dodge Chassis is Sole Brand Which Will Meet The Fire Department's Needs

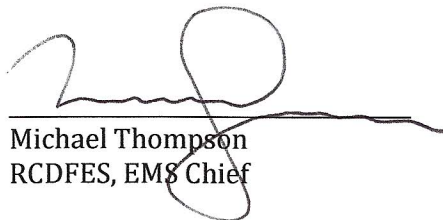
TO: Mayor and City Council:

The Rapid City Department of Fire and Emergency Services (RCDFES) is in the process of soliciting bids for a new four wheel drive ambulance. The chassis for these ambulances are classified as Type I, Class I chassis's. Ford and Dodge are currently the only two manufacturers who produce Type I, Class I, chassis's. The RCDFES has determined that only a Dodge chassis will meet the department's current needs. There are multiple vendors who can provide a Type I, Class I, Dodge chassis so this will not constitute a sole source procurement and price competition can still be achieved. Per South Dakota Bid Law the City needs to make a written determination that a Dodge chassis is the only brand that meets the agency's needs. The basis for this determination follows.

The RCDFES ambulance fleet previously consisted of ambulances with Ford chassis's. The City has had extensive dealings with the local Ford dealer on chassis maintenance issues during that time. Based on these experiences, the RCDFES has determined the local Ford dealer is not capable of providing timely, quality service on these types of vehicles. The quality and timeliness of the service previously received by the RCDFES resulted in ambulances being out of service for extended periods of time which resulted in significant system status problems. The RCDFES forwarded complaints to Ford's corporate representatives regarding the local service situation and nothing changed. The RCDFES has not had similar service problems with service on Dodge chassis.

The department's maintenance supervisor has evaluated the specifications for both chassis's and determined that the Dodge chassis is the only practical and safe choice based on the maximum gross vehicle weight (GVW) supported by the Ford chassis. The basis for this determination is that the maximum weight the Ford chassis can support is the exact weight of the ambulance, without any additional capacity for personnel, supplies etc. Once personnel, supplies, etc. are added to the ambulance it will exceed the Ford chassis maximum GVW. The Dodge chassis can support additional weight so does not have this problem.

Based on the foregoing reasons the RCDFES requests the City Council acknowledge this statement and find that the Type I, Class I, chassis is the only chassis which meets the department's needs.



Michael Thompson
RCDFES, EMS Chief

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

