

# REPORT

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council  
From the City Manager

April 23, 2007

## **Subject**

Transfer of Surplus Property

## **Recommendation**

Authorize the transfer of one surplus fire pumper #8068 to Colima, Mexico.

## **Background**

On January 8, 2007, City Council declared fire pumper #8068 as surplus. The City Clerk advertised the sale of this truck on January 18, 2007, and again on January 25, 2007, for a set minimum bid of \$27,000. Staff also sent the sale notice to the California Fleet Managers Association and various fire agencies in the State of California. The official bid opening was February 14, 2007, and there were no bids. Staff contacted an auctioneer who then advertised the sale of this fire pumper on the open market; however, the auctioneer hasn't received any bids.

This relative lack of interest on the open market for such a vehicle is also illustrated by our previous experience, with fire pumper #8057, which had been declared as surplus in early 2006. In that case, the City Clerk advertised the sale of the fire pumper with a set minimum bid of \$31,500 (90% of the appraised value). After receiving no bids, the fire pumper was sent to an auctioneer to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. This fire pumper was on the open market for seven (7) months before it was finally sold for \$13,630.

Given that experience, and the low potential for receiving a reasonable price for the surplus equipment, staff recommends that this surplus fire pumper be transferred to our Sister City of Colima, Mexico. This fire pumper no longer has any use to Redwood City for present or future purposes.

Over the last 11 years, the relationship between Redwood City and Colima has grown and developed into a real friendship between communities and cultures. Through the Sister City program, we have enjoyed cultural, educational, business, and interpersonal exchanges across our borders, and fostered a deeper mutual understanding of each other. We continue to gain fresh perspectives on our community and our world, through our friendship with the people of Colima.

On a recent visit to Colima, members of our community along with several staff and Council members took note of the limited resources that Colima staff has to work with. This was especially apparent in their fire department, which is staffed almost entirely by volunteers who lack first-line fire fighting equipment. With their extreme lack of funding and support for fire fighting equipment, our donation of this pumper would provide a great benefit to the people of Colima. Staff feels this benefit greatly outweighs the minimal amount of funds the City would gain by selling this truck on the open market.

Colima has gratefully accepted a surplus fire engine from us, which Redwood City donated to that city in 2003. It truly made a difference in the lives of the people who live and work in Colima. Staff recommends that Redwood City again offer to the community in our sister city of Colima the opportunity to make their lives a little better, by transferring this surplus equipment to them for use by the Colima fire department volunteers.


**Alternatives**

1. Direct staff to re-advertise the sale of this truck with a set minimum bid.
2. Direct staff to send truck back to an auctioneer and sell on the open market.

**Fiscal Impact**

There will be no fiscal impact if this surplus property is transferred to Colima, Mexico.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Barwacz  
Public Works Services Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ed Everett  
City Manager

**Attachment**

None