



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CITY COUNCIL APPROVES PURCHASE OF A NEW TYPE 3 WILDLAND FIRE ENGINE TO KEEP THE REGION AND STATE PREPARED FOR PROJECTED BUSY WILDFIRE SEASON** *Monterey Fire also replaces two other model year 2002 engines*

Monterey, CA. – Timing played an important role when the City of Monterey Fire Department came upon an opportunity to replace an aged Type 3 wildland engine received via a grant from the *Fort Ord Reuse Authority* 17 years ago. A typical lifespan of a rigorously used fire engine is 15 years. With longer and more devastating wildfires happening throughout the state for several years now, the wildland engines are used extensively for mutual aid throughout the state. When resources are sent out on statewide mutual aid assignments, the City is reimbursed the cost of staff and for the use of vehicles. Over the past seven fiscal years, reimbursements for vehicles have been nearly \$575,000, the majority of which has been credited to the City's Equipment Replacement Fund.

The Monterey City Council at the May 4, 2021 City Council meeting appropriated \$410,000 for the purchase of an additional Type 3 Wildland Fire Engine using the Equipment Replacement Fund. The existing Type 3 engine will remain in the active fleet as an additional asset to be used for wildfires. This month, the National Weather Service reported record-breaking dry vegetation in California, including the Central Coast. CAL FIRE recently reported a 700% increase in the number of acres that have already burned this year compared to this time last year.

City Manager Hans Uslar said, "We all remember the lightning storms last summer that

*(more)*

triggered numerous wildfires, disrupting lives, causing significant evacuations and property damage. We are making sure we continue to be equipped locally to protect our communities, and also statewide, should other agencies need our help.”

“There are many timely bonuses to obtaining this important firefighting apparatus,” said Monterey Fire Chief Gaudenz Panholzer. “The engine’s specifications meet the CAL FIRE standards, which also means parts and service will be readily available, and it was already in production but not yet purchased so we are able to get it as soon as this July.”

In April, the Fire Department also took possession of two new fire engines, which were approved by the City Council in 2020. The two new engines are a great addition to the department’s fleet as they are outfitted with all the modern safety features to keep the firefighters and the public safe in the event of an emergency. The engines they are replacing have served the city well for over 20 years.

Monterey Fire Department, which serves Monterey, Pacific Grove, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Sand City, Naval Postgraduate School, La Mesa Village and Monterey Regional Airport, also just added two new water tank engines to serve the community, pushing the current 2002 engines to reserve status.

*Photos below are of the current wildland fire truck to be replaced, and the two new E12 and E13 engines. More fire apparatus can be found at <https://monterey.org/fire/Operations/Fire-Apparatus>*



(Current Wildland Fire Engine since obtained through a FORA grant, 2004.)

<https://www.monterey.org/Portals/5/Images/APP-6433-Type-3.jpg>



(New Fire Engines E12 and E13 to replace the same type from 2002.)

<https://www.monterey.org/Portals/5/Images/EnginesE12-E13.jpg>

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