



To: GM Cox & CPUD Board

From: Richard Sonsteng, Fire Chief

Date: March 20, 2025

Subject: STAFF REPORT on the Addendum to Schedule C asset transfer for the annexation of Chester Fire Department by the Peninsula Fire Protection District.

Background:

During the meetings leading to the annexation of Chester Fire Department, one element of the LAFCO application was the transfer of assets to the annexing agency. This was submitted as the schedule C portion of the application. This describes property that is owned and operated by the Fire Department that is in use to serve the community. One section was inadvertently omitted from schedule C which was the rolling stock that would be necessary for the Peninsula Fire to effectively provide fire/EMS services to the community of Chester. After careful consideration and discussions between the Fire Chiefs it was determined that not all of the apparatus would be included in the transfer. Of the entire inventory the following table outlines the agreed-on equipment that would be included in the annexation. This table was created and discussed during the annexation committee meetings. Unfortunately, this was the table that was omitted for which I take responsibility.

Exhibit C: Capital Asset Transfer

Vehicles:

Lic#

VIN#

Engine T1	7221	Pierce	2004	1188946	4P1CT02AX4A00171
Ladder Truck	7261	Peirce	2008	1300015	4P1C101A38A008577
Ambulance	7252	Dodge 4500	2011	1346448	3D6WU6EL5B6570623
Utility	7200	Chevy Tahoe	2021	1620065	1GNSKLEDXMR348722
Utility	7204	Chevy Tahoe	2021	1623572	1GNSKLEDXMR348715
Utility	7241	Ram 1500	2008	1278295	1D7HU1821J205762

Status summary of CFD apparatus inventory:

When I took over as Fire Chief last June, I found the following rolling stock and their condition:

Fire Engines:

1 Pierce Pumper older but lower milage and in relatively good condition. This will remain as the primary engine that will operate out of the Chester fire station. The second engine was an HME pumper that was purchased second hand from OES. This was in fair condition with decent service life left on it. This unit was the primary back up engine. We have since sold the HME to our neighbors at the newly formed Beckworth Peak Fire District in Plumas County.

1 Type 3 Wildland Fire Engine. Inoperable and previously declared surplus by the board. This was sold in “as is” condition and is no longer in our inventory.

1 Aerial Ladder truck in excellent condition and low milage considering it age. It is also the only aerial apparatus in the entire county. This unit is considered a “Quint” in fire service terms as it has the capability to function as an engine with water and a pump. It can also be considered a back up to the Pierce pumper. The Ladder Truck would be kept in service to the community of Chester. Due to the exceedingly high cost of aerial apparatus, to surplus this unit would most likely mean that the community would never be able to acquire another one.

Ambulances:

1 Dodge 4500. Also known as the red ambulance. This was the primary unit prior to the department losing its ambulance transport contract. This was operable but in poor condition from deferred maintenance. Due to the fact that the community will have a future need for a serviceable unit, I sent it out for extensive repairs that included the air ride leveling system, 90K mi service, brakes and alignment with many new front-end components. The cost of these repairs exceeded the initial \$5000 estimate. It is important to note that Peninsula Fire covered the additional \$10,000 in repairs to bring this unit up to a point where they can safely operate it as a front-line unit. The second unit, known as the white ambulance, was inoperable and had not been ran in a long while. I evaluated it and ultimately had it repaired and brough back to serviceable condition. Both units are currently in use as back up units for Peninsula Fire. They have had mechanical issues with their aging ambulances and recently had to retire one of their units that had a catastrophic engine failure. Peninsula Fire has a new unit on order that is expected to be delivered in late spring. Once that delivery occurs our white ambulance will be sold with proceeds intended to go toward debt service.

Utility vehicles:

2008 Dodge Pickup Truck. In good condition but high milage. This is used as a general utility as well as support for the IMT members. This is designed to remain in Chester with the same function.

(2) 2021 Chevy Tahoe's. These are in excellent condition with low milage. These units were purchased through a grant which designates them for fire department use to serve the community. Both units had extensive modifications added with radios, lighting, and command modules specifically for fire department use. One is currently in service as a Chiefs Command Vehicle and the other one had been previously used as a Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) for a single EMT/Paramedic when we could not staff a full crew.

Both the Pickup and QRV support general utility use as well as IMT response. All 3 will continue to serve in the same function. These utilities will also be used to tow snow mobile and personal water craft in use for emergency response needs as Peninsula Fire expands its service capability to the newly formed district.

Summary and recommendations.

The main goal in developing the table of vehicles to be annexed was to identify what was necessary operationally by Peninsula Fire so they would be able to operate in the community of Chester. Throughout the process each vehicle listed was evaluated and its future use considered versus selling it off. Other factors include its potential service life, its specialized set up and use, the ability to repurchase it in the future, and potential restrictions on what we could legally do with it like grant funding.

I strongly recommend that the board support the proposed vehicle transfer as soon as possible for the following reasons:

- **First and foremost, once transferred, these vehicles are not going to be taken away from the community that they were purchased for and intended to serve. They will remain in service to Chester and will be operated, serviced, maintained and insured by Peninsula Fire. They will still be operating out of the Chester fire station.**
- This table was discussed and agreed in principle during the annexation committee meetings. There was never any intent or discussion regarding receiving any payment or compensation for them.
- Peninsula Fire District, while fiscally stable, does not have excessive funding beyond the fire tax on property parcels within its response boundaries. We must be good

partners for them to be successful, which in turn will allow them to provide the best service to our communities in the future.

- With the annexation now complete and legal Peninsula Fire is our fire/Ems provider, and we must do everything possible to support them.
- They have shown commitment to us in several ways. They have invested a lot money in our ambulance repairs even though they have not received any tax money to support it.
- They have and will again upstaff the Chester station during the 4th of July and other events that cause a surge in population in our community. Until such time they receive the appropriate tax monies to restaff the station on a full time basis.
- **The sooner we complete the transfer of vehicles the sooner they will assume the operational costs such as insurance and maintenance which will reduce PUD costs.**

** following page is the completed schedule C as was intended to be included in the LAFCO application.

Exhibit C: Capital Asset Transfer

Vehicles:

Lic#

VIN#

Engine T1	7221	Pierce	2004	1188946	4P1CT02AX4A00171
Ladder Truck	7261	Peirce	2008	1300015	4P1CI01A38A008577
Ambulance	7252	Dodge 4500	2011	1346448	3D6WU6EL5B6570623
Utility	7200	Chevy Tahoe	2021	1620065	1GNSKLEDXMR348722
Utility	7204	Chevy Tahoe	2021	1623572	1GNSKLEDXMR348715
Utility	7241	Ram 1500	2008	1278295	1D7HU1821J205762

Radios:

Mobile BK	On Board Units				
Portable BK	P150	5			

SCBA:

MSA Packs	12	
MSA Masks	12	
MSA Bottles	25	

Structural PPE:

Jackets	37	
Pants	62	
Helmets		

EMS Equipment:

Zoll Cardiac Monitor	2		
AED	2		
Stryker E Gurney	2		
Portable Suction	4		

Fire Hose:

DJ 1.5"	84	
DJ 2"	15	
DJ 1.75"	42	
LDH 5"	36	
SJ 1"	64	
SJ 1.5"		

Miscellaneous Tools & Equipment:

Hydraulic Rescue Systems (Jaws of life)	2				
Stihl Chainsaw	5				
Echo Chainsaw	1				
Honda Light Generator	3				
PPV Blower Gas	1				
PPV Blower Electric	1				
Wolf Pack (wildland ppe)	31				
Ladders:		(3) 24'	(3) attic	(2) 16'	