



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Angela
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Witwer
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
N/A
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Eaton Rapids Fire Department
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
200 S. Main Street, Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
-
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Angela Witwer, 76th House District
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.
Appropriation of \$2,400,000 to replace the City of Eaton Rapids Fire Department's aerial fire truck, which has reached the end of its service life and is no longer reliable. This request underscores the critical need for this investment in public safety and firefighting operations.

Need for Aerial Fire Truck:

- i. Current Fire Truck Condition: The existing 2000 American LaFrance platform ladder

truck, purchased in 2004 for \$400,000, has become prohibitively expensive to maintain. Frequent, costly repairs are required, and parts are increasingly difficult to obtain due to the manufacturer's closure. This has rendered the truck unreliable, compromising its ability to serve the city and surrounding municipalities.

ii. Community and Economic Considerations: Eaton Rapids' downtown infrastructure, expanding industrial capacity, and growing rescue needs make the acquisition of a new 100-foot mid-mount aerial platform essential. This unit will enhance firefighting, rescue operations, and the city's overall safety.

iii. Firefighting Capabilities: The new aerial truck will be equipped with advanced firefighting tools, including water flow capabilities, high- and low-angle rescue tools, and forcible entry equipment. It will ensure the safety of personnel working at elevated or below-grade incidents and ensure compliance with NFPA guidelines.

Operational Needs:

i. Aerial Rescue & Access: The truck is crucial for high-rise and industrial rescue operations, especially in buildings with restricted access or hazardous materials. For instance, the truck has been vital in responding to fires at a magnesium products facility, where water cannot be used due to the violent reaction between magnesium and water.

ii. Fire Department Support: This aerial truck has been essential not just to Eaton Rapids but also to neighboring communities, including Charlotte, Olivet, Eaton Rapids Township, Hamlin Township, Dimondale and Pottersville, when aerial assistance was required. However, due to its frequent breakdowns, it has been unavailable for mutual aid on several occasions, emphasizing the urgency of replacing it.

Cost and Financial Considerations:

i. Cost of Replacement: The cost of a new aerial truck with the necessary capabilities exceeds \$2 million, which is more than six times the fire department's annual budget. Without external assistance, the city cannot afford this purchase.

ii. Impact on Budget: A single purchase of this magnitude would require nearly 73% of the city's general fund budget, making it financially unfeasible without significant state or federal support.

Community Support:

i. Local businesses, residents, and institutions, including the Eaton Rapids Medical Center, strongly support this purchase. They recognize the critical importance of advanced firefighting equipment to protect the public and property. The acquisition is seen as an investment in the city's long-term safety, economic security, and disaster preparedness.

Conclusion:

i. Replacing the aerial fire truck is not only a critical upgrade to public safety but also a proactive step in preparing Eaton Rapids for future growth and emergency response needs. By securing state support for this essential piece of equipment, the city can continue to provide effective firefighting, rescue, and emergency services, ensuring the safety and well-being of its residents and businesses.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

2400000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["None"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Local unit government

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Not applicable

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Not applicable

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Not applicable

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

N/A

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

Eaton Rapids has completed the firetruck specifications and are ready to place the order as soon as funds are secured. The estimated completion timeline is 18 to 24 months, with a projected delivery window between October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2027. They could potentially take delivery sooner if they are able to locate a completed firetruck that meets their specifications.

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes

