

"State of the Art" Emergency Rescue Vehicle Planned In Hillsborough

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The Hillsborough Township Committee, recognizing that state of the art technology can make a difference in the few moments time that can save an individual in a life threatening emergency situation, approved moving forward on the purchase of a new, technologically advanced emergency rescue vehicle, for the Hillsborough Rescue Squad, replacing the Squad's current 16 year old vehicle, at Tuesday evening's meeting.

The tandem rear axle vehicle, with a 254 inch wheel base and a gross vehicle rating of 66,800 pounds, will provide its chief service in response to vehicle crashes or other emergency situations where individuals face life threatening entrapment.

It will also provide service at industrial and machinery accidents, will carry rapid intervention team equipment to support the Township's volunteer Fire Departments at fires, and will carry water and ice rescue equipment.

The vehicle has an estimated cost of \$510,000, with an additional \$160,000 projected for the necessary state of the art, life saving equipment, including the most up to date jaws of life and related equipment.

"Hillsborough does not go into debt lightly," Committeeman Bob Wagner said, "However, this vehicle is a necessity for the protection of our residents, those who commute to work at Hillsborough businesses, and the travelers through our community. And the cost is too large for any one budget year."

Wagner pointed out that the Township's Capital Planning Committee ranked the vehicle purchase as the 4th highest priority out of 50 in 2006 and recommended the Township seek bond funds for the project.