

Re: Manpower Requirements for One New Aerial Truck
(Item 7, Report No. 55, August 19, 1974)

On August 19, 1974, Council received a request for authority to hire sixteen persons to man a new aerial truck which is expected in late September. The matter was tabled pending the submission of further information which is contained in the following report from the Fire Chief:

"With development of the Eastern section of the Municipality taking place at an unprecedented rate, it became imperative that the fire protection in this area be upgraded.

Accordingly, plans were developed for a firehall and property acquired at the intersection of Brighton & Government Road for this purpose with construction taking place in 1972.

At that time a new pumper was purchased and sixteen men hired to staff the unit (this provides a four man crew for each of four shifts), with provision being made in the Capital Improvement Program for the years 1973 to 1978 for the acquisition of a new 100' Aerial to be ordered in 1973 for delivery in late 1974.

Upon receipt of a fire call in the area of Lougheed Mall, two pumpers are dispatched, one from No.6 Firehall at Brighton & Government which arrives in approximately 3 or 4 minutes (depending upon traffic conditions) and the other from No.4 Firehall at 2326 Duthie Avenue which requires about 6 minutes to reach this location.

If the alarm location is a mercantile or multiple family dwelling, either high rise or low rise, an aerial is also dispatched on the first alarm. At the present time the closest aerial is located at No.5 Firehall at 4475 Hastings Street which places it approximately 12 minutes from Lougheed Mall or adjacent area.

In view of the population density of the existing apartments in the area, and the imminent occupancy of those under construction and in the planning stage, it may be readily seen that a 12 minute response for a piece of apparatus so important in a rescue situation is unacceptable.

It is with this thought that I strongly urge approval for the hiring of the 16 men required to staff this new unit which will be delivered sometime toward the end of September.

After completion of the screening and selection of suitable candidates, a minimum of one months basic training is still required for these people before this aerial may be placed in service. Under present circumstances, if approval is immediately forthcoming, at least three months will elapse before this unit will be in service."

The addition of an aerial truck to the Firehall at Brighton and Government Road will increase the number of firefighters at this location from 16 to 32.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT authority be given to hire sixteen employees as required for the operation of the new aerial truck; and

THAT an unused portion of the Ambulance Account be reallocated in the Recast Budget to offset the approximately \$40,000 that will be required to hire, train and equip the sixteen new employees.