

**FIRE SERVICE: PROVISION OF HYDRAULIC
PLATFORM AERIAL APPLIANCE**

**Lodged au Greffe on 22nd May 1990
by the Defence Committee**



STATES OF JERSEY

STATES GREFFE

160

1990

P.66

Price : 75p

PROPOSITION

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of the opinion -

to approve, in principle, the provision in 1991 of a new combined hydraulic platform aerial appliance for the Fire Service.

DEFENCE COMMITTEE

NOTE: The Finance and Economics Committee supports this Proposition but reserves its position with regard to the availability of funds until consideration of the budget.

REPORT**1. Basic information -**

- (i) The replacement of the Fire Service hydraulic platform, a fire appliance necessary for aerial fire fighting and rescue.
- (ii) For a number of years, a rolling programme of fire appliance replacement has been undertaken, devised with the object of achieving a turnover of equipment so that updating would be naturally achieved at a fairly constant yearly cost. The replacement programme recommended by Her Majesty's Inspectorate and agreed by the Defence Committee is one which requires the hydraulic platform to be replaced every 15 years.

The hydraulic platform is a special appliance and has no substitute should it fail through lack of spares or deterioration. The appliance offers a large sturdy platform for rescuing the elderly, infirm and children and from which the fireman can fight all types of fires.

Consideration has been given to the replacement of the current hydraulic platform with similar or alternative appliances available. For many years fire brigades have been offered the choice of two types of appliance for aerial fire fighting and rescue work, the turntable ladder and the articulating boom hydraulic platform. During the past 30 years, the States Fire Service has had first the turntable ladder and then the hydraulic platform, each offering particular benefits for different incidences.

A new concept in aerial fire fighting and rescue was developed in 1985 combining both the concept of a turntable ladder and a hydraulic platform into one vehicle.

This combined ladder and telescopic boom platform offers the following main features -

- (a) continuous rescue capability, by use of the rigid, wide ladders attached to the booms, for high density evacuation emergencies;
 - (b) a large sturdy platform for rescuing the elderly, infirm and children and from which the fireman can fight all types of fires;
 - (c) a cage capable of holding a weight of 400 kg (880 lb) equivalent to five persons at all operating positions;
 - (d) additional fire fighting and rescue capability including the ability to reach areas behind obstacles and position the cage up to 6.5 metres (21 feet) below ground level for rescues and fire fighting at docksides, etc.
- (iii) If approved, work would commence on the appliance in January 1991 for delivery in August 1991.

2. Project specification

- (1) The new appliance will replace the existing one.
- (2) The appliance will be constructed to meet the standards acceptable to the Home Office Fire Service Department and United Kingdom fire brigades.
- (3) The specification will provide for an increase in the working height of the aerial appliance from the present 22 metres to 28 metres (91 feet).
- (4) The new appliance will have in-line jacking to enable the vehicle to be used, in a reduced capacity, in positions that it can be driven into. The current

situation is that the appliance can be driven into a street but requires an overall width clearance of 16 feet to allow the jacks to operate. The proposed vehicle will eliminate problems in the town where poor vehicle parking and narrow streets can present delays in emergency operations.

- (5) The specification is to provide a three-axle chassis as opposed to the two-axle type currently in service. United Kingdom brigades are having to operate hydraulic platforms on traditional two-axle chassis at close to their maximum legal gross vehicle weight creating chassis problems. The hydraulic platform chassis in use by the Jersey Fire Service has not posed particular problems during its lifetime but the move to a new heavier platform would load a two-axle chassis to its very limits. It is probable that the move to a three-axle chassis will increase the life of the appliance and investigation into increasing the replacement programme from 15 years to 20 years will need to be taken account of to diffuse future capital expenditure outlay.

3. Estimate of cost

The following prices are based on estimates from hydraulic platform and chassis manufacturers following discussions and visits to their works and from the knowledge of similar appliances in the United Kingdom and in particular the Isle of Wight.

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| (a) | Hydraulic platform
chassis
extras
shipping costs | £305,000 |
| (b) | (i) Training of three Fire Service
officers as instructors. | |

- (ii) Training of 52 Fire Service personnel as operators - to be completed in two month period.
- (iii) Training of two workshop personnel. £23,500
- (c) Hendersons doors.
- Hydraulic platforms of the type required are approximately 14 inches higher in travelling height. This necessitates alterations to a fire station door to allow access. £6,500
- (d) Contingency 10 per cent of (c) £650
- £335,650

Note: There will be a period of approximately two months in which both appliances will be required, old and new, whilst training is performed to introduce the new machine. Once this period is complete the present appliance will be sold and the monies presented to the Treasury.

4. **Estimate of revenue implications**

None: no increases to present arrangements in finance or manpower.

5. **Summary**

The Defence Committee commends to the States the provision of a new combined platform ladder aerial appliance for the Fire Service and, if approved, the sum of £335,650 will be inscribed in the 1991 capital estimates.