



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT FY 2024

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NEWBURYPORT, MA

TRANSFER/APPROPRIATION REQUEST

NOV 6 A 11:44

Department: Mayor's Office

Submitted by: Sean R. Reardon, Mayor

Date Submitted: 11/13/2023

Transfer From:

Account Name:	<u>General Fund Free Cash</u>	Balance:	<u>\$ 3,234,995.80</u>
Account Number:	<u>01-35910</u>	Category:	<u>\$ -</u>
Amount:	<u>\$550,527.37</u>	Trans I/O:	<u>\$ (149,880.20)</u>

Why Funds Are Available:

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue certified Free Cash for FY2024 at \$3,384,876. These funds are available for any legal expenditure with the approval of the Mayor and a vote of the City Council.

Transfer To:

Account Name:	<u>Fire Boat Purchase</u>	Balance:	<u>\$ -</u>
Account Number:	<u>New Capital Account</u>	Category:	<u>\$ -</u>
Amount:	<u>\$550,527.37</u>	Trans I/O:	<u>\$ -</u>

Why Funds Are Needed:

Replacement vessel for the fire boat that sank in June 2022. See attached memorandum.

Sean R. Reardon, Mayor:

Sean R. Reardon

Date: 11/6/2023

Ethan R. Manning, Auditor:

Ethan R. Manning

Date: 11/6/2023

City Council Action:



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
SEAN R. REARDON, MAYOR

To: President and Members of the City Council
From: Mayor Sean R. Reardon
Date: November 7, 2023
Subject: Purchase of SAFE 29-Foot Walk-Around Cabin Fire Boat

I am writing to request an appropriation of \$550,527 from available free cash to fund the purchase of a SAFE 29-foot walk-around cabin fire boat. This funding will cover the final cost of delivery to Newburyport from Washington State. Funding derives from an insurance settlement that the City received following the sinking of our previous fire boat in June 2022. The total insurance settlement amounted to \$574,000, with \$17,550 used for removal and towing expenses. As a result, a remaining balance of \$556,450 closed to free cash at year-end.

The deadline to secure this price and guarantee a delivery date for the fall of 2024 is December 7, 2023. However, we anticipate that the boat may arrive in time for the Yankee Homecoming Fireworks in 2024.

The SAFE 29 is a boat covered by a General Services Administration (GSA) contract, manufactured by SAFE Boats in Washington State. The full GSA quote is available [here](#). Government-set prices are effective from January, and we run the risk of facing a price increase if we do not finalize the contract before that date. Importantly, this manufacturer is the same one that recently delivered the harbormaster's patrol boat, and the cost falls within the amount recovered from insurance.

The need to replace the Fire Storm 32, which sank in June 2022, is evident. Newburyport has nine marinas, a city-owned dock capable of accommodating boats up to 200 feet in length, a gas dock, and Massachusetts' busiest boat ramp located at Cashman Park. Additionally, we have miles of river and oceanfront, along with several islands within our jurisdiction. Fighting fires in many of our waterfront buildings, bars, and restaurants is only feasible from the water. We estimate the collective value of over 1,500 boats on docks or moorings to be at least \$500 million. Some of the transient boats at the City docks are valued at over \$30 million.

Chief Bradbury established a committee within the Fire Department, in collaboration with input from the Harbormaster. We have concluded that the SAFE 29-footer is the best-suited fire boat for our diverse needs. This will be the third SAFE Boat in the city, and it has demonstrated a strong track record.

We reached out to a total of four GSA-registered companies and received responses from three; all quotes received ranged from \$500,000 to \$580,000. After consulting with several fire

chiefs in Florida and Texas, we are confident that this boat is the right choice for our department.

Over the past year, we have had four incidents of boat fires, including a fishing party boat, a boat at a marina, one boat on the city docks, and one off Salisbury Beach. During this period, the entire area was covered by Salisbury's 25-foot SAFE Boat, which boasts a pump rated at 350 gallons per minute. The SAFE 29, with a pump rated at 500 gallons per minute, is expected to meet our requirements, although this represents the minimum standard.

The boat will be staffed as it has been in the past: one engine will respond to the reported address with the ladder truck, while another engine will respond to Cashman Park with three firefighters to operate the boat. Overtime expenses will be consistent with those incurred during any house fire. Boat training will be conducted during regular shifts, eliminating the need for additional overtime costs. It's worth noting that many of our firefighters can operate the boat with minimal training. The boat will only be staffed for specific details on days such as the Yankee Homecoming Fireworks and anti-terrorism training in Gloucester.

Maintenance costs are anticipated to be minimal. The boat is trailer-mounted, eliminating costs associated with launching or hauling. During the winter, the boat will be stored indoors, obviating the need for shrink wrapping. Our projected annual costs are expected to fall between \$2,000 and \$3,000, covering maintenance of the two outboard engines and fuel expenses.

Finally, this fire boat plays a crucial role in protecting our boating community. It is used to respond to boating fires, drownings, grass fires on our islands, oil spills in our river, and is an active member of the anti-terrorism task force that trains annually out of Gloucester. It also responds to mutual aid requests as far away as Haverhill or Kittery, Maine.

It's essential to note that the US Coast Guard does not provide firefighting services for fires on boats other than their own. Newburyport's Fire Department has clear use cases for this necessary piece of equipment, and they have worked with the City's finance and purchasing staff to select the right model through the proper process. We are happy to answer any other questions you have about this request.

Thank you for your consideration.