



Rindge Fire Department

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Bob Faas
Fire Chief

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Selectmen Larry Cleveland, Bob Hamilton, and Tom Coneys

To: Town Administrator Max Vandervliet

From: Robert Joseph Faas Jr.

Date: 04/07/2026

Subject: Justification for Selection of Brush Truck Apparatus

Dear Members of the Board of Selectmen,

I am writing to provide a detailed justification for the Rindge Fire Department's decision to move forward with the selected brush truck configuration as outlined in the attached specifications.

The selection of this apparatus was made after careful evaluation of the department's operational needs, community risk profile, and long-term sustainability considerations. This unit is designed as an "Initial Attack Fire Apparatus," meeting applicable NFPA standards, and is specifically tailored to enhance our ability to respond effectively to brush fires, wildland incidents, and off-road emergencies.

Operational Capability and Performance

The proposed unit, built on a 2025 Ford F-550 4x4 chassis, provides a significant upgrade in off-road capability and reliability. The inclusion of a lift kit, heavy-duty suspension components, and super single tires ensures improved mobility in the varied terrain commonly encountered in Rindge, including wooded areas, trails, and limited-access properties. Additionally, the 12,000 lb. front-mounted winch enhances self-recovery and operational flexibility in remote environments.

The apparatus is equipped with a 300-gallon water tank and a Darley high-volume pump capable of delivering up to 380 GPM, allowing for rapid initial attack and sustained suppression efforts. The inclusion of a front bumper turret controlled from within the cab provides increased firefighter safety by enabling fire attack without personnel leaving the protection of the vehicle (tire, or rubbish fires).

Firefighter Safety and Efficiency

Firefighter safety was a primary consideration in this selection. Features such as the in-cab controlled monitor, NFPA-compliant lighting package, 360-degree scene lighting, rear camera system, and clearly designed equipment storage all contribute to safer and more efficient operations. The design minimizes exposure to hazards while maximizing visibility and operational awareness on scene.

Additionally, the apparatus layout emphasizes accessibility and organization, with multiple compartments, tool storage areas, and hose beds that allow crews to deploy equipment quickly and effectively during time-critical incidents.

Reliability and Maintenance

This apparatus is constructed using a commercially available Ford chassis, which ensures ease of maintenance, parts availability, and serviceability through local vendors. The unit is manufactured in the United States and meets federal and NFPA standards, reducing long-term maintenance challenges and downtime.

The use of a modular skid unit for the pump and tank system allows for easier servicing and potential future replacement or upgrade without requiring a full apparatus replacement, providing long-term cost efficiency.

Fiscal Responsibility and Value

The selected configuration represents a cost-effective solution that balances capability with fiscal responsibility. By utilizing commercial chassis and a proven skid unit design, the department can acquire a highly capable piece of apparatus at a significantly lower cost than a custom-built wildland engine, while still meeting our operational requirements.

Furthermore, the durability, warranty coverage, and reduced maintenance complexity contribute to a lower total cost of ownership over the life of the vehicle.

Alignment with Community Needs

Rindge's geographic and environmental characteristics large, wooded areas, rural roadways, and limited water supply infrastructure necessitates a versatile and mobile apparatus capable of rapid deployment and independent operation. This brush truck directly supports those needs and strengthens the department's ability to protect life, property, and natural resources.

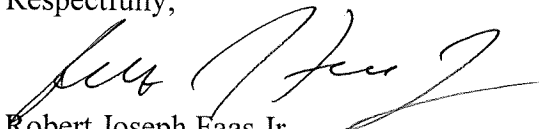
In summary, this brush truck was selected because it provides the best combination of capability, safety, reliability, and cost-effectiveness to meet the current and future needs of the Rindge Fire Department. It is a strategic investment that will significantly enhance our emergency response capabilities.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like further details regarding this decision.

Issues with Existing Brush Truck

- 1) Bottom of doors rusting out
- 2) Rocker reinforcements rusting out
- 3) Hose reel with yellow hose rusting out
- 4) Lightbar no longer NFPA compliant
- 5) LED ground scene lights nonoperational
- 6) Winch – OOS
- 7) Pump in need of upgrade.

Respectfully,



Robert Joseph Faas Jr.
Fire Chief
Rindge Fire Department