



Rindge Fire Department

30 Payson Hill Road
Rindge, NH 03461
Tel. (606) 899-3324 Fax (603) 899-6384
RFDChief@rindgenh.gov

Bob Faas
Fire Chief

MEMORANDUM

To: Town of Rindge Board of Selectmen

From: Robert Joseph Faas Jr.

Date: 08/10/1016

Subject: Brush Truck Purchase Justification -2027 Ford F-450 and New England Truck Design R350-X4H Skid Unit

Purpose

The Rindge Fire Department recommends the purchase of a 2027 Ford F-450 4x4 cab and chassis from Grappone Ford and the R350-X4H brush truck skid/body package from New England Truck Design (NEDT) to replace and/or enhance the Department's current brush fire response capability.

The combined purchase price for the Ford F-450 chassis and NEDT brush truck body/skid unit is \$152,626, exclusive of lettering/graphics and radio installation. Those costs will be additional and are being obtained separately.

Recommendation

After reviewing the proposals received, I recommend that the Town purchase the vehicle from Grappone Ford and the brush truck body/skid package from New England Truck Design.

Although this combination is not the lowest initial purchase price among the proposals received, I believe it represents the best overall value and the best use of Town funds when considering the vehicle specifications, configuration, intended operational use, quality of the build, and expected service life.

Vehicle Selection – Grappone Ford

The proposed vehicle is a 2027 Ford F-450 4x4 Super Cab chassis with a 168-inch wheelbase. The specifications include a 7.3L V-8 gasoline engine, 10-speed automatic transmission, 16,500-lb GVWR, 4.88 limited-slip axle, 225/70R 19.5 tires, extra-heavy-service suspension, exterior backup alarm, rear-view camera and preparation kit, and other equipment appropriate for a fire-service vehicle.

The chassis configuration is particularly appropriate for a brush truck because it provides a substantial payload and chassis platform while maintaining the maneuverability necessary for operating on rural roads, wooded properties, fields, trails, and other areas where a larger apparatus may have difficulty operating.

The Ford specifications also include an extra-heavy-service suspension, which is important for a vehicle carrying a skid unit, water, equipment, personnel, and associated fire-service equipment. The specifications provided by the Ford dealer identify the 16,500-lb GVWR, 4.88 limited-slip axle, extra-heavy-service suspension, and other features selected for the vehicle.

Body/Skid Unit Selection – New England Truck Design

The Department recommends pairing the Ford chassis with the New England Truck Design R350-X4H 4x4 Super Chassis Cab DRW skid unit.

This approach allows the Department to select the chassis and brush truck package independently rather than being limited to a single vendor's complete package. This provides greater flexibility in selecting equipment that meets the Department's specific operational requirements.

The NEDT package, when combined with the Grappone Ford chassis, provides the Department with a purpose-configured brush truck rather than simply purchasing the least expensive available package.

Evaluation of Cost

The proposals received include:

Proposal	Cost
Grappone Ford + NEDT	\$152,626
Graphics/Lettering	Additional
Radio Installation	Additional

The recommended Grappone/NEDT combination is approximately \$24,926 more than the Bulldog proposal and \$37,626 more than the Wolf Rock proposal, before graphics and radio installation. NEDT invited both me and Deputy Chief Leger to their facility and gave us a tour of the shop and introduced us to their construction team. Which neither of the other manufacturers did.

The Department recognizes that the recommended option carries a higher initial cost. However, the purchasing decision should not be based solely on the lowest bid price. A fire apparatus is a long-term capital asset that must provide reliable service for many years and be performed under demanding emergency conditions.

Operational Justification

A brush truck is a specialized emergency-response vehicle. Its primary purpose is to provide personnel and equipment access to wildland and brush fires while carrying the water, pump, hose, tools, and other equipment necessary to initiate fire suppression, while designing this vehicle we took into consideration the ability to give us some versatility with the unit and designed it to allow us to use it in the winter as well to tow and sore ice and water rescue equipment.

The vehicle must be capable of:

- Operating on rural and unimproved roads.
- Accessing wooded and difficult-to-reach areas.
- Carrying a substantial equipment and water load.
- Providing reliable fire suppression capability.
- Responding to incidents throughout Rindge and through mutual-aid agreements.
- Remaining useful for many years with appropriate maintenance.
- Supporting other emergency operations when appropriate.

The F-450/NEDT combination provides a platform designed around these operational requirements.

Long-Term Value

The Department's recommendation is based on value rather than simply acquisition cost.

An additional upfront investment should be considered in relation to the expected service life of the apparatus. Purchasing a properly specified chassis and a purpose-built brush truck body provides the Department with an opportunity to obtain an apparatus that can serve the community for many years.

A lower initial purchase price does not necessarily represent the lowest overall cost if the apparatus requires earlier replacement, has limited capacity, lacks desired features, or does not adequately meet the Department's operational requirements.

The recommended purchase also provides the Town with a new Ford F-450 chassis, reducing the immediate risk of purchasing a used or otherwise unknown-condition platform for a critical emergency-response vehicle.

Graphics and Radio Installation

The quoted \$152,626 does not represent the final in-service cost of the apparatus.

The Department anticipates additional costs for:

1. Department graphics and lettering, including the appropriate Rindge Fire Department identification and apparatus markings.
2. Radio installation, including installation and integration of the Department's emergency communications equipment.

These costs are necessary to place the vehicle into full operational service but are not included in the current \$152,626 vehicle/body purchase price. The Department is obtaining pricing for these items separately and will provide the final costs when available.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The Rindge Fire Department recognizes that the Grappone Ford/New England Truck Design combination is not the lowest-cost proposal received. However, after considering the chassis specifications, intended operational use, configuration, expected service life, and overall value to the Department, I believe this combination represents the best investment for the Town of Rindge.

The recommended purchase will provide the Fire Department with a new, purpose-configured brush truck capable of responding to wildland and brush fires and providing additional operational capability throughout the community.

I therefore recommend that the Town of Rindge authorize the purchase of the 2027 Ford F-450 cab and chassis from Grappone Ford and the New England Truck Design R350-X4H brush truck body/skid unit for a combined purchase price of \$152,626, with the understanding that graphics/lettering and radio installation will be additional costs necessary to place the apparatus into service.

This recommendation is made with the goal of obtaining the best overall value, reliability, capability, and long-term service to the citizens of Rindge, rather than simply selecting the lowest initial purchase price.

Respectfully,

Robert Joseph Faas Jr.
Fire Chief
Rindge Fire Department

Quotes for brush truck

From Andy Leger <C2@rindgenh.gov>

Date Mon 8/10/2026 8:54 AM

To Bob Faas <RfdChief@rindgenh.gov>

 4 attachments (389 KB)

Image_20260526_0001.pdf; Town Of Rindge F-450_____05_18_2026.pdf; R350-X4H-Rindge-Pricing.pdf; Rindge Fire 8-4-26 Rev A.pdf;

Attached are all of the quotes for the brush truck. Two of the skid units all I received were numeric values and not drawings. My recommendation would be going with the F-450 from Grappone Ford and the skid unit from New England Truck Design. I believe that would get us the best bang for our buck.

Bulldog quote- 127,700

Wolf Rock Construction- 115,000

The two attachments would be Rindge fire 8-4-26 and R350-X4H. The total for the Grappone NEDT build comes out to 152,626 without lettering. I am still looking into pricing on lettering.

Respectfully,

Andy Leger
Deputy Fire Chief
Rindge Fire Department
150 Main Street
Rindge, NH 03461

E: C2@rindgenh.gov

P: 603-899-3324 (department)

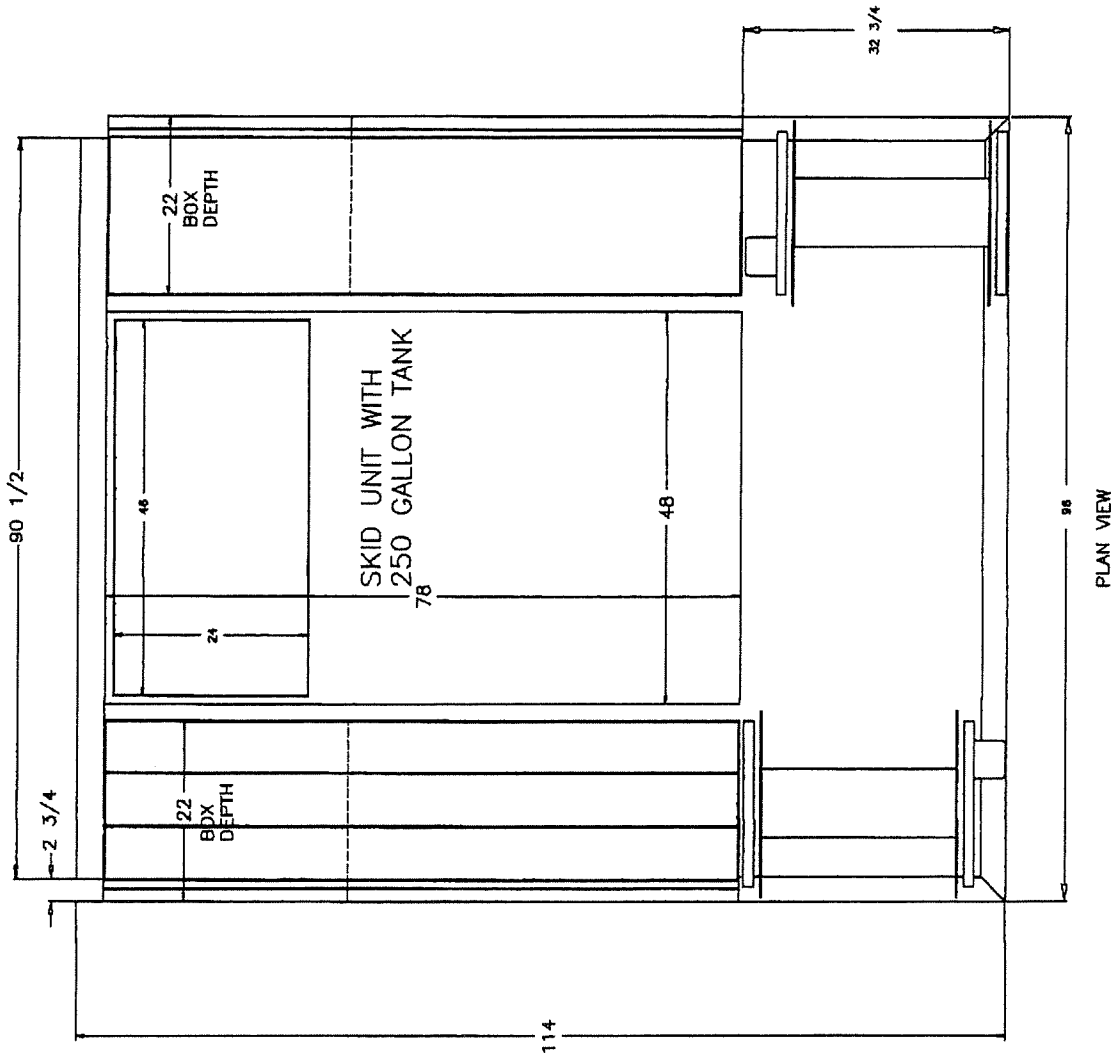
603-554-4070 (personal)

	New England Truck Design Inc.			
	"Over 49 Years in Vehicle Design and Fabrication"			
	Sterling, Ma			
	Ph (978) 422-8870 Fax (978) 422-8871			
	www.road-craft.com			
Date	7/15/2026 (Revised 8/4/26)			
Customer	Rindge Fire			
From:	Kevin Lavin			
Subject:	Brush Truck			
	PRELIMINARY			Price
1	Custom aluminum flatbed body 114" x 96"			\$7,250
	.190 smooth aluminum plate			
	3" I-beam cross members 12" OC			
	6" channel long sills			
	4x3x3/8" "picture frame" perimeter			
	ICC and ID marker lights			
2	Full Height Tubular Headboard			\$1,875
3	Rear Valance with 2 tail lights and 2 backup lights			\$1,906
	all lights to be LED, We will include 2 amber marker			
	lights at the front corners of the body			
4	Installation			\$1,875
	Wire in tail lights and markers			
	Install mudflaps			
	Install fuel filler			
5	(2) Through body Protech aluminum toolbox at front both sides			\$7,806
	46" tallx30" long x 22" deep			
	Stainless Tee handle latches			
	Diamond plate aluminum door			
6	Street side above deck lower toolbox			\$2,455
	Protech toolbox 48" long x 12" high x 22" deep.			
	This box will have a fold down door and lanyards			
	Diamond plate door with 2 Stainless Tee handle latches			
7	Street side above deck upper toolbox			\$2,308
	Protech toolbox 48" long x 12" high x 22" deep.			
	This box will have a fold up door with gas shocks			
	Diamond plate door with 2 Stainless Tee handle latches			
8	Curb side above deck toolbox behind through deck box			
	1 Protech aluminum toolbox 48" long x 22" deep x			\$3,462
	24" high. Single door hinged up with 2 latches			
	and pneumatic cylinders, Diamond plate door installed			

9	Hose tray above street side toolboxes				\$1,338
	78" long x 19 1/2" wide x 7" deep				
	with 2 dividers				
	3/16" thick aluminum				
10	Utility tray above curb side toolboxes				\$1,213
	78" long x 19 1/2" wide x 7" deep				
	No dividers				
	3/16" thick aluminum				
11	Utility tray above the tank				\$1,044
	24" long x 46" wide x 7" deep				
	3/16" thick aluminum				
12	Road-Craft diamond plate aluminum fenders				\$1,200
13	Build in a tunnel compartment accessed through the rear skirt area with a drop down door. This is not a sealed compartment. At this time the box is 96" deep				\$1,700
14	3/4" hitch plate with D-Rings and 2" reciever tube				\$1,250
15	7 pin trailer plug				\$195
16	Install 2 large fold down steps, 1 on each side of the hitch side plate				\$513
17	Mount and wire in 6 Maxima LED flood lights (MWL-20A)				\$1,188
	2 at rear near hitch, 2 rear of fenders and 2 at front below the body attached to the toolbox facing forward				
	All lights will be wired to 1 switch unless requested otherwise				
18	Supply and install a Buckstop Outback front bumper with freight				\$5,288
	12 week lead time				
19	Supply and install a Warn 103255 winch				\$1,870
	Vehicle recovery winch, #12,000 pull line capacity				
	90 ft Synthetic rope				
	Hawse fairlead				
	Wire remote control				
	Planetary gear drive				
20	Assuming the truck has a backup camera, Install and mount the camera head at the rear				\$270

	Skid Unit				
21	Supply and install a CET skid unit as follows				\$35,406
	Honda electric start 20hp V-Twin				
	3 gallon fuel tank				
	Tank				
	250 gallon water tank				
	78" tank/skid				
	Manifold Stainless				
	Tank fill 1" with industrial ball valve				
	1 1/2" Fire type ball valve service line with cap and chain				
	2 1/2" Fire type ball valve service line with cap and chain				
	Stainless steel manifold				
	Suction inlet				
	standard suction with two 2 1/2" fire grade ball valves				
	Stainless steel suction piping				
	Reels x 2				
	Electric rewind hose reel 1" x 200'				
	Set of chrome outriggers with 3 way rollers (1 per reel)				
	1" fabric booster hose				
	Lighting				
22	Whelen Liberty II light bar mounted on the headboard of the body				\$4,177
	Forward facing strobes will be red with take down lights in the center.				
	Rear facing lights will be a combination of red/blue strobes				
23	Rear facing strobe lights at the rear of the body				\$1,375
	will consist of 2 Whelen M4 lights with red/blue lenses				
24	Side facing strobe lights forward of the rear fenders				\$1,313
	each side will be Whelen M4 lights with red only lenses				
25	Forward facing strobe lights mounted outboard on the front bumper				\$1,313
	will consist of Whelen M4 lights with red only lenses				
	Siren				
26	Whelen 295SL Series (basic)				\$2,595
	No lighting controls				
	100 watt speaker				
	Removable microphone				
	19 rogramable tones				

				Grand Total		\$92,183
	No radios provided for in this quote					
	No graphics provided for in this quote					
	Terms are 50% deposit and balance due on completion					



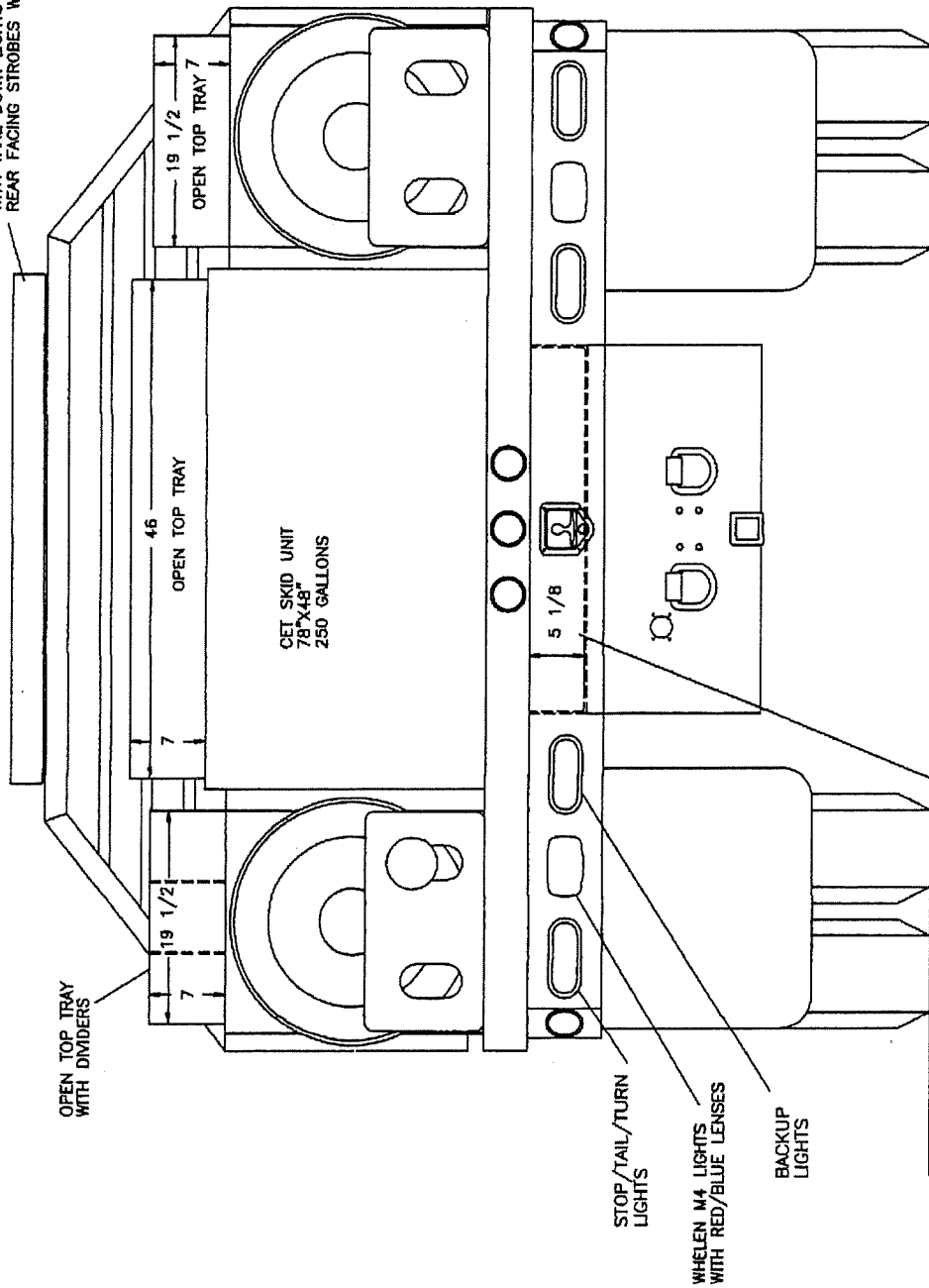
Road-Craft
By NETD

TITLE		Rindge Fire Rev A 7/15/26	
DRAWN BY		K. LAVIN	
SIZE	DATE	DRAWING NO.	REV.
A 10/20/25		PLAN VIEW	
SCALE: Do Not	XXX	SHEET	OF

**New England
Truck Design**
Sterling, Ma.

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WHELEN LIBERTY II LIGHT BAR
FORWARD FACING STROBES WILL BE RED
WITH TAKE DOWN LIGHTS AT CENTER.
REAR FACING STROBES WILL BE RED/BLUE



REAR VIEW

DROP DOWN DOOR AT REAR
CENTER FOR HOSE STORAGE

STOP/TAI/TURN
LIGHTS

WHELEN M4 LIGHTS
WITH RED/BLUE LENSES

BACKUP
LIGHTS

Road-Craft
By NETD

TITLE		Rindge Fire Rev A 7/15/26	
DRAWN BY		K. LAVIN	
SIZE	Date	DRAWING NO.	REV
A	10/20/25	REAR ELEVATION	
SCALE: Do Not		XXX	SHEET OF

**New England
Truck Design**
Sterling, Ma.

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Preview Order R350 - X4H 4x4 Super Chas Cab DRW: Order Summary Time of Preview: 06/03/2026 15:38:50 Receipt: 6/3/2026

Dealership Name: Grappone Ford

Sales Code : F11300

Dealer Rep.	Sarah Reilly	Type	Fleet	Vehicle Line	Superduty	Order Code	R350
Customer Name	Rindge	Priority Code	H3	Model Year	2027	Price Level	715

DESCRIPTION	MSRP	DESCRIPTION	MSRP
F450 4X4 SUPERCAB CHAS CAB/168	\$63560	SKID PLATES	\$150
168 INCH WHEELBASE	\$0	50 STATE EMISSIONS	\$0
TOTAL BASE VEHICLE	\$63560	JOB #1 ORDER	\$0
RACE RED	\$200	CENTER HIGH MOUNT STOP LAMP	\$100
40/20/40 CLOTH SEAT	\$0	410 AMP DUAL ALTERNATOR	\$0
MEDIUM DARK SLATE	\$0	EXTRA HEAVY SERVICE SUSPENSION	\$125
PREFERRED EQUIPMENT PKG.653A	\$0	EXTERIOR BACKUP ALARM	\$280
.XLT TRIM	\$0	REAR VIEW CAMERA & PREP KIT	\$515
.AM/FM STEREO MP3/CLK	\$0	CONN PKG:1 YR INCL W/FORD APP	\$0
.7.3L DEVCT NA PFI V8 ENGINE	\$0	SECURITY PACKAGE: 1 YR INCL	\$0
10-SPEED AUTO TORQSHIFT	\$0	SPECIAL DEALER ACCOUNT ADJUSTM	\$0
225/70R19.5G BSW MAX TRAC TIRE	\$215	SPECIAL FLEET ACCOUNT CREDIT	\$0
4.88 RATIO LIMITED SLIP AXLE	\$395	FUEL CHARGE	\$0
FORD FLEET SPECIAL ADJUSTMENT	\$0	NET INVOICE FLEET OPTION (B4A)	\$0
FRONT LICENSE PLATE BRACKET	\$0	PRICED DORA	\$0
ALL WEATHER MATS W/O CARPT MAT	\$180	ADVERTISING ASSESSMENT	\$0
CARPET DELETE	\$0	DESTINATION & DELIVERY	\$2795
16500# GVWR PACKAGE	\$0		

TOTAL BASE AND OPTIONS	Total out the door price including Grappone and	MSRP
DISCOUNTS	Government discounts as of 6/3/2026: \$60,443	\$68515
TOTAL		NA
		\$68515

ORDERING FIN: QS038 END USER FIN: QI930

Customer Name:
Customer Address:

Customer Email:

Customer Phone:

Town Of Rindge

05/18/2026

Attn: Andy Leger

Andy,

Here is the information we spoke about. I updated everything to reflect the F-450. Please note the extra heavy duty suspension takes place of the snow plow prep. The only other thing that I noticed that would be beneficial is the Center Mount High Stop Lamp. I did add that in this quote. If you would like me to remove it please let me know. Please note that Hillsboro Ford Inc is not responsible for any changes in pricing and availability from the Manufacturer.

2027 Ford F-450 Super Cab 4x4 Cab And Chassis:

168" Wheel Base
Race Red Exterior
Medium Dark Slate 40/20/40 Interior
XLT Trim
AM/FM Stereo/MP3
7.3L V-8 Gas Engine
10 Speed Automatic Transmission
225/70R 19.5 BSW Max Traction Tires
4.88 Ratio Limited Slip Axle
Front License Plate Bracket
All Weather Floor Mats
Carpet Delete
16,500 GVWR
50 State Emission
Pro Power Onboard- 2KW/ Present With Dual Alternators Selected
Center High Mount Stop Lamp
Extra Heavy Service Suspension
Exterior Back Up Alarm
Rear View Camera And Prep Kit

Price Of Vehicle Above With Specified Options:

\$61,232.00

Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or need anything modified!

Best Regards,
Justin Bagloe
Hillsboro Ford Inc
603-464-5200

PURCHASER Andy Leger DMS ID# _____ SOCKET # 266825
 CO-PURCHASER _____ DATE 05/26/2026
 ADDRESS _____ NH BDC Cindy Dawson
 PHONE HOME (603) 554-4070 SALESPERSON Hanna McNeil
 WORK (603) 554-4070 MANAGER _____
 CELL (603) 554-4070 EMAIL c2@rindgenh.gov

MILEAGE		V.I.N.		M.S.R.P.	
STOCK NO.	☒ NEW	YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR
	☐ USED				
	☐				
	DEMO.				
TRADE-IN INFORMATION					
YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	PREVIOUS LENDER	
MILEAGE		V.I.N.		PAYOFF AMOUNT	

\$ 60,413
 - \$ 1,500 Discount
 - \$ 2,600 Bid Assist
 + \$ 196 Doc Fee

 \$ 56,509