

### Purchase of New Hiawatha Fire Truck Approved

(KNZA)--The Hiawatha City Commission moves forward with the purchase of a new pumper truck for the fire department.

The commission Monday evening accepted a proposal from Snyder, Nebraska-based Smeal Fire Apparatus Company for the truck at a cost of \$263,827, contingent on funding from USDA Rural Development.

Bids were received from three companies, and Assistant Fire Chief Brian Butrick told commissioners the fire department feels Smeal has the better truck.

Butrick said there was about a 38-dollar difference between Smeal and the low bidder. He said the department is willing to make up the difference by contributing \$5,000 from their donation account to get what they feel is the better truck.

The majority of the funding for the new fire truck will come from a more than \$338,000 loan/grant awarded to the city through USDA Rural Development for the purchase of public safety equipment. The city will provide around \$38,000 from the capital outlay fund.

Delivery of the new pumper truck, which will replace the department's current 1974 truck, will take 240 to 300 days.

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