

# Robins fire department to purchase new truck

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At the October 1 meeting of the Robins City Council, the council approved the purchase of a new truck for the Fire Department. Fire department members Neal Boeckman and Clint Sheppard presented the information on bids to the council; they said the department had received two bids, from Alexis Fire Equipment Company and Heiman Fire Equipment.

While Heiman's bid of \$228,125 was the lowest bid, Boeckman, Sheppard and Fire Chief Brian Boots recommended the council approve Alexis' bid of \$237,583. Two of the trucks currently in use by the department were made by Alexis, and the purchase of a third Alexis truck would make it possible for all three to be serviced by the same company, and would allow for standard equipment to be used between the trucks.

Boeckman, Sheppard and Boots also said that the warranty for the Alexis truck was better and that they felt an Alexis truck would be of higher quality. The department would also not have to take the truck as far to make repairs, they said.

Boeckman added that the bid price is for the truck only, and while extra equipment will need to be purchased, the total cost will still not exceed the \$300,000 price cap set aside for buying the new truck.

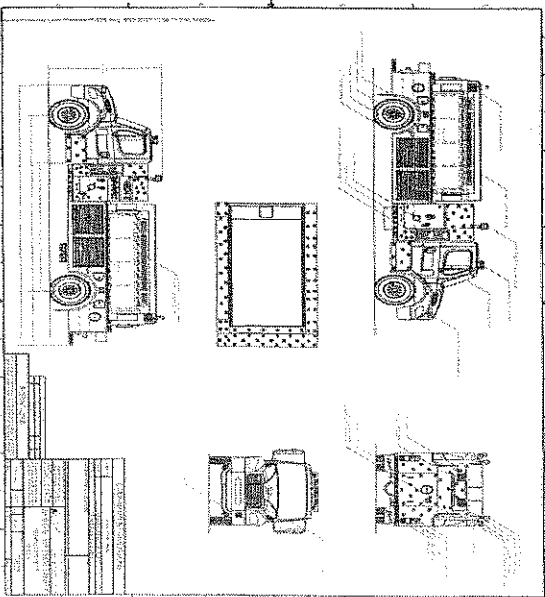
The council voted unanimously to agree to purchase the truck from Alexis, so that work on the chassis could get underway. The chassis will take four to five months to build, and the overall time before the new truck can be delivered will be approximately 11 months.

The new Alexis truck will replace the fire department's 1979 Ford truck, and should serve the department for the next 25 years.

Also discussed at the October 1 meeting was the mayor's salary to \$4,800 per year, and that of the council members to \$60 per month. Council member J.D. Smith was the sole vote against passing the third reading. The pay increase will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2008, for the incoming council.

The council debated proposed authorization for the city to maintain the Main Street Sidewalk. At past meetings, citizens whose properties are bordered by the sidewalk expressed a desire to have the city maintain it, as they argue, it is more of a trail than a sidewalk. The sidewalk, at five feet across, is also two feet wider than standard sidewalks in Robins.

The council decided to vote to authorize city maintenance of the sidewalk for one year, and then reevaluate the situation then. Council member Marilyn Cook chose to abstain from the vote, while Smith, Chuck Hinz and Eric Thomas voted to authorize city maintenance. Cathy Welton voted against authorization.



The Robins city council was presented with these plans for a new Alexis fire truck at their Oct. 1 meeting. The council voted to approve the ordering of the truck, which will replace the fire department's 1979 Ford truck. The chassis will take four to five months to build and the truck should be completed within 11 months.