

**BOULDER CITY BALLOT QUESTION NO. 1**

**City of Boulder City  
An Advisory Question**

As funds become available within the Capital Improvement Fund, shall the City spend up to \$350,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the purchase of new rescue units (ambulances) for the Boulder City Fire Department?

Yes .....

No .....

**EXPLANATION**

The Boulder City Fire Department has two rescue units (ambulances), both of which have experienced many miles and/or hours of use. Such old and outdated equipment often results in less efficient and less effective public safety service to the community. Additionally, such equipment requires increased costs for maintenance and upkeep. These two vehicles are essential to providing appropriate levels of ambulance and rescue service in Boulder City. If funds from the Capital Improvement Fund for these two public safety vehicles are not authorized by the voters, the City will be forced to replace the rescue units from the City’s general fund with a corresponding impact on other City services ordinarily provided to the public.

A “YES” vote would allow the City to expend not more than \$350,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the purpose of replacing Boulder City Fire Department rescue vehicles (ambulances). Such expenditure would only be allowed if funds were available within the Capital Improvement Fund.

A “NO” vote would not allow the City to expend money from the Capital Improvement Fund for replacing Boulder City Fire Department rescue vehicles (ambulances).

**ARGUMENT FOR PASSAGE**

The City of Boulder City *is going to buy* new rescue units (ambulances). The question is, which account do they take the money out of? The City is no longer in a position to refurbish/repair the rescue units; they must be replaced. It has become a safety issue. With the opening of the bridge and the increase in traffic, our rescue units can easily be tied up out on US 93 or US 95 on a transport, leaving Boulder City residents without a reliable rescue unit in town.

*Failure of the question does not mean the City will not buy new rescue units.*

Failure of the question means the rescue units will be purchased from the General Fund. The General Fund is the City’s main operating fund which records all assets and liabilities of the entity that are not assigned to a special purpose fund. It provides the resources necessary to sustain the day-to-day activities and pays for all administrative and operating expenses. Funding sources for the General Fund are consolidated taxes, property taxes, licenses and permits, and 80% of land lease revenue. An amount up to but not to exceed \$350,000 is being asked for. A “YES” vote will allow the money to come from the Capital Improvement Fund, if and only if there is money available in the Capital Improvement Fund.

The Capital Improvement Fund is used for capital acquisitions (long term assets that are not regularly bought or sold), construction of major capital facilities and/or capital improvements. Funding sources for the Capital Improvement Fund are land sales revenue and 20% of land lease revenue. All expenditures from the Capital Improvement Fund must be approved by the voters.

*Submitted by Ballot Question Committee as provided for in NRS 295.217*

### **REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT FOR PASSAGE**

The Boulder City Fire Department and the citizens of Boulder City should not rely upon a favorable vote of its citizens to have rescue vehicles that are in operable condition. The purchase of rescue vehicles should not be dependent upon the availability of money in the Capital Improvement Fund. It is important to have the replacement of public safety vehicles as an ongoing budgeted expense from the General Fund to ensure the rescue vehicles are replaced systematically, prior to the point when they are in such poor condition, they become inoperable.

The Capital Improvement Fund should be used for capital acquisitions, just as the opposing committee suggests. Public safety vehicles should be replaced on a regular, consistent basis and therefore, budgeted from the General Fund.

Vote “NO” on Question No. 1

*Submitted by the City Clerk as provided for in NRS 295.217*

### **ARGUMENT AGAINST PASSAGE**

Vote “NO” to expend up to \$350,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the purchase of new rescue unit vehicles for the Boulder City Fire Department.

The purchase and replacement of public safety vehicles should be a scheduled, continuous practice incorporated into the budgeting process rather than relying on voter approval. Voters rejected the purchase of public safety vehicles from the Capital Improvement Fund during the 2010 November General Election.

At the end of the current fiscal year, the Capital Improvement Fund will have a balance of approximately \$3 million. As solar lease revenues continue to increase over the next several years, the Capital Improvement Fund balance will increase and allow Boulder City to fund a significant project without incurring debt. Rather than use the Capital Improvement Fund for ongoing expenses such as vehicles, the funds should be used for a large capital project such as a swimming pool or for improvements of existing City facilities.

Budgeting the purchase of Fire Department vehicles from the General Fund rather than the Capital Improvement Fund ensures the City's rescue units will be replaced systematically prior to reaching a point where the vehicles are no longer operable.

Vote "NO" to funding the purchase of fire department vehicles from the Capital Improvement Fund.

*Submitted by the City Clerk as provided for in NRS 295.217*

### **REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST PASSAGE**

A single rescue vehicle costs approximately \$175,000. The next two fiscal years have \$150,000 budgeted for one new rescue vehicle each year. Failure to pass this question will mean an increase from \$150,000 to \$175,000 in the General Fund during the next fiscal year to purchase one rescue vehicle. The City is currently in serious need of two rescue vehicles. Purchasing the rescue vehicles from the General Fund means the Fire Department would not be fully equipped until Fiscal Year 2013-14.

Approval for Capital Improvement Fund expenditures at this time allows the Fire Department to have the resources necessary to perform their duties while preparing a more systematic fleet replacement process to be incorporated into future General Fund budgets. Waiting two more years to replace already old equipment could endanger citizens in emergency situations.

The argument against passage of this question admits to a future increase in Capital Improvement Fund money due to solar lease revenues. Therefore, the funds used for the purchase of rescue vehicles from the Capital Improvement Fund are projected to be replenished in the near future.

*Submitted by Ballot Question Committee as provided for in NRS 295.217*

### **FISCAL NOTE**

**Description of Anticipated Financial Effect:** This will impact the Capital Improvement Fund in the amount of not more than \$350,000 and then only if funds are available within the Capital Improvement Fund. This question does not require any expense that will require the levy or imposition of a new tax or fee or the increase of an existing tax or fee.