

NEW TRUCK. City staff members want to trade in two old fire engines for a new ladder truck, but commissioners have put the brakes on such a deal for now. Fire Chief Duane Mehl said last week that the city's current ladder truck is unreliable and may need as much as \$50,000 worth of repairs. He wants to trade it in, along with a "hybrid" pumper truck and rescue vehicle, to help defray the cost of a new ladder and pumper engine that could cost as much as \$350,000. The 75-foot-long ladder on the new vehicle would be able to reach the top of a six-story building while parked 45 feet away from the structure, Mehl said. The current aerial truck has 10 more feet of reach - when it works. Commissioner Pamela Peters said she wanted to know more about the kind of calls the Fire Department gets and the financial details of the purchase before making a decision. City Manager Tony Barrett said commissioners will get a more detailed proposal later.