

Engine 781 is Now in Service! by Fire Chief Shane Warner



L to R: Asst. Fire Chief Jim Burdick, Fire Chief Shane Warner, Kirk Vander-Weide, representing Congressman George Radanovich, GCSO General Manager Jim Goodrich, Supervisor John Gray, GCSO Board President John Graham

HISTORY: The Fire Department submitted a Vehicle Acquisition Grant Request for a Type I Fire Engine through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in March 2008. We were notified on November 28, 2008 that we were successful in receiving the grant in the amount of \$280,190. The Fire Department released bid documents to 11 manufacturing companies for bid proposals. Golden State was awarded the contract and the engine was custom built at the Pierce Manufacturing Plant in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Congressman George Radanovich's office was very supportive throughout the grant writing process. His office wrote letters of support to FEMA. Having congressional support was a major factor to receiving the grant. The GCSO Board and General Manager Jim Goodrich were very supportive in budgeting the matching funds needed to apply for the grant. John Gray, currently Fourth District Supervisor for Tuolumne County, and John Graham, current GCSO Board President, were Directors on the GCSO Board during the time of the grant writing process, although they served on the Board at different times.

The grant application process is very difficult and time consuming. Groveland Fire Department's personnel spent the last four years researching, attending grant writing seminars, and networking with other fire departments to hone our grant writing skills. Fire Chief Warner's, Assistant Chief Jim Burdick's, and the Fire Department Staff's diligence paid off. California received 172 grant from FEMA ranging from Operations & Safety to Vehicle Acquisitions grants. These two grant categories, because of firefighter safety, were the main focus during the 2008 grant period. The Groveland Fire Department was one of fourteen fire departments to receive a vehicle grant in the state of California.

RETIRING: A condition of the grant was that the Department retire Engine 782. The narrative written for the grant explained in detail why the 1971 American LeFrance Engine needed to be decommissioned. It is in disrepair, does not meet several important National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) safety standards, and has a leaking water tank.

The New Engine 781 safely carries six firefighters.

The cab over design and shorter wheel base is designed especially for our area. The self-contained breathing apparatus is mounted in the seats saving call response time. The new engine has a 750 gallon water tank, can also deliver foam, and pumps at 1250 gallons per minute. Engine 781 will improve the safety of the firefighters and the community that relies on it for service and protection.

If you ask our firefighters they will say that Engine 781 is set-up perfectly for emergency response. It has a state of the art pump and components, Jake brake, headsets, auxiliary pump, and many more items that make it an outstanding addition to our fleet.

