

# **立法會**

## ***Legislative Council***

LC Paper No. CB(2)875/12-13(08)

Ref : CB2/PL/SE

### **Panel on Security**

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat  
for the meeting on 5 April 2013**

### **Replacement of turntable ladders of the Fire Services Department**

#### **Purpose**

This paper gives a brief account of the discussions of the Panel on Security ("the Panel") since the Fourth Legislative Council ("LegCo") on the replacement of turntable ladders ("TLs") of the Fire Services Department ("FSD").

#### **Background**

2. According to the Administration, as of May 2012, FSD had 23 TLs including 15 37-metre, six 52-metre and two 55-metre TLs. Their main functions are to carry out fire fighting and rescue operations at high level and be used as surveillance tower. The distribution of the TL fleet of FSD is in **Appendix I**.

#### **Deliberations of the Panel**

3. At the Panel meeting on 3 March 2009, the Administration sought the Panel's support for the replacement of three 50-metre TLs by new TLs with enhanced features. Members were advised that the three 50-metre TLs were reaching the end of their normal serviceable lives of 12 years. It was also increasingly difficult to service the vehicle as the manufacturer had ceased to produce some of the critical spare parts, e.g. hydraulic pumps. There were also no compatible spare parts in the market. In view of the above, the Administration proposed to replace the three aged 50-metre TLs in 2011.

4. There was a suggestion that the Administration should consider setting out clearly in the tender/contract documents that the manufacturers should guarantee the supply of spare parts for a few more years after the vehicles reached the end of their normal serviceable lives. The Administration advised that the tender/contract documents would include standard conditions requiring the manufacturers to guarantee the supply of spare parts throughout the serviceable lives of the vehicles to be procured. Moreover, FSD had been able to extend the serviceable lives of the vehicles by using the stock of spare parts kept by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and FSD workshops for repair and maintenance.

5. Members were further advised that the replacement TLs would have stronger fire-fighting and rescue capabilities with the following enhanced features -

- (a) a rescue cage of load capacity up to 270 kg to enhance high-level life rescue capability. This was a new feature as compared with the existing model;
- (b) a built-in telescopic water pipe on ladder sections. There was no such built-in device in the existing model;
- (c) an electronic remote-controlled water monitor to facilitate the movement of water jet at ladder top, as compared with the existing manual-controlled one; and
- (d) the monitoring of ladder movement by a computerized system instead of by manual operation.

6. The Panel supported the proposed replacement of the three TLs. At its meeting on 8 May 2009, the Finance Committee ("FC") approved the funding sought for the proposed replacement.

7. The support of the Panel was sought again on 8 May 2012 for the procurement of three 55-metre TLs for replacing three existing 52-metre TLs in FSD. According to the Administration, the three vehicles had been in service for more than or close to the 12-year life limit. Considering that it took about three years to complete the work such as tendering, construction, delivery and arranging for the commencement of their services, it was necessary for FSD to commence the replacement work at that point of time so as to ensure its operational readiness.

8. Members were advised that the three proposed 55-metre TLs would have the following better fire-fighting and rescue capabilities -

- (a) the maximum rescue height would increase from 52 to 55 metres, enabling the TLs to reach a higher place for rescue operation;
- (b) a CCTV system would be installed at the rescue cage which could facilitate the ladder operator to position the rescue cage more accurately and safely for operation; and
- (c) a portable electricity generator would be provided to provide electricity for operation of ladder in case of engine breakdown.

9. Regarding the concern about the disposal of the existing TLs when the new ones were in service, the Administration advised that the TLs would be auctioned in accordance with the guidelines of the Government Logistics Department. The income so generated would be credited to the Government's general revenue.

10. Members noted with concern about the legal proceedings for the contractual disputes between the Government and a contractor in relation to defective fire rescue hydraulic platforms. They sought information on whether improvements had been made in the procurement procedures. The Administration advised that major improvements had been made in stipulating in the tender documents that one TL would be requested to be delivered first as sample for trial use before the confirmation of delivery of the remaining vehicles. Also, the warranty period would be extended. When bidding for the tender, suppliers would be requested to provide supporting documents to show that the products had been used by other main fire and rescue teams so as to guarantee the quality of the TLs to be procured.

11. At its meeting on 8 June 2012, FC approved the funding sought for the proposed replacement.

### **Relevant papers**

12. A list of the relevant papers on the LegCo website is in **Appendix II**.

## Appendix I

### **Existing Turntable Ladder fleet of FSD**

(as at May 2012)

Command	Division	Fire Station	Turntable Ladder Type	Year of Commissioning
Hong Kong	Central	Wan Chai	37-metre	2004
		Kong Wan	52-metre (F281*)	2000
	East	North Point	37-metre	2004
		Chai Wan	55-metre	2011
	West	Aberdeen	37-metre	2011
		Kennedy Town	37-metre	1997 <sup>#</sup>
Kowloon	Central	Ma Tau Chung	37-metre	2011
	East	Po Lam	37-metre	2004
		Po Lam	37-metre	1996 <sup>#</sup>
	South	Tsim Sha Tsui	52-metre	2000
	West	Lai Chi Kok	37-metre	2009
		Mong Kok	52-metre	2000
New Territories	East	Ma On Shan	37-metre	2004
		Shatin	52-metre (F280*)	2000
	North	Sheung Shui	37-metre	2011
	South	Tsuen Wan	37-metre	2011
		Lei Muk Shue	55-metre	2011
	South-west	Penny’s Bay	37-metre	2004
		Chek Lap Kok	37-metre	1997 <sup>#</sup>
	West	Tuen Mun	52-metre	2000
		Tuen Mun	37-metre	1996 <sup>#</sup>
Headquarters		Driving Training School	37-metre	1996 <sup>#</sup>
		Driving Training School	52-metre (F279*)	1999

\* Proposed to be replaced in the proposal.

<sup>#</sup> Funding has been granted for replacement of these vehicles.

**Relevant papers on  
replacement of turntable ladders of the Fire Services Department**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Paper</b>
Panel on Security	3.3.2009 (Item V)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a> <a href="#">CB(2)962/08-09(03)</a>
Finance Committee	8.5.2009 (Item No. 5)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a> <a href="#">FCR(2009-10)11</a>
Panel on Security	8.5.2012	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
Finance Committee	8.6.2012 (Item No. 3)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
27 March 2013