

# Memorandum



Date: June 18, 2010

To: Mayor Pro Tem Dwaine Caraway, Chair  
and Members of the Public Safety Committee

Subject: Stryker Power-Pro XT

The Public Safety Committee will be briefed on the Stryker Power Pro XT on Monday, June 21, 2010.



Ryan S. Evans  
First Assistant City Manager

## Attachment

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council  
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager  
Deborah Watkins, City Secretary  
Tom Perkins, City Attorney  
Craig Kinton, City Auditor  
Victor Lander, Administrative Municipal Judge  
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager  
A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager  
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager  
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer  
Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager Mayor/City Council Office

The logo of Dallas Fire-Rescue is a large, stylized, metallic-looking emblem. It features a central shield with a cross-like shape inside, surrounded by a jagged, flame-like border. The entire logo is rendered in a dark, textured grey color.

# ***Dallas Fire-Rescue***

## **Stryker Power-Pro XT**

Bobby D. Ross, Deputy Chief  
Emergency Response Bureau

June 21, 2010





# Introduction

Dallas Fire-Rescue is upgrading all of our current “H” Frame Stretchers to the New Stryker Power-Pro XT. The Stryker Power-Pro XT Stretcher is an innovative and powerful stretcher that will lift a patient by way of a battery powered hydraulic motor.



# Stryker Power-Pro XT





# Purpose

- The new Stryker Power-Pro XT is designed to lift patients up to 500 lbs without assistance, and it will lift patients up to 700 lbs with minimal assistance from the operators.
- These new power stretchers may eliminate many injuries to our firefighters associated with lifting patients.



# The Need

- Our current “H” Frame Stretchers are no longer being manufactured as of 2007.
- The “H” Frame Stretchers are built to a maximum lift height of 32 inches (our Rescues are designed to a minimum height of 34 inches per KKK-A-1822E EMS standards).
- Our “H” Frame stretchers have reached their suggested life span.
- Our current stretcher repair cost averages \$18,000 yearly.



# History of Back Injuries 2008-2009

- During February 2008 through July 2009 we had 19 members sustain injuries associated with lifting patients on a stretcher.
  - Presumably many of these injuries may have been prevented with the utilization of a hydraulic stretcher.



# History of DFR Injuries

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Paid in W.C.</b>	<b>Paid for Hire-Backs</b>	<b>Shifts off for injury</b>
Feb 2008	Strained back lifting to load patient (pt) then lowering at ER	\$15,357	\$930	1 shift Limited Duty
March 2008	Strained back loading pt; stretcher malfunctioned so employee had to lift several times to load	0	0	0
April 2008	Strained shoulder pulling heavy patient out of rescue at ER	\$4,242	\$21,399	23 shifts Limited Duty
July 2008	Strained abdomen lifting/pushing pt on stretcher into back of the rescue unit	0	\$377	9 hours off on day of injury
July 2008	Strained abdomen trying to unload pt at ER when stretcher failed to lock & started collapsing FF tried to catch to stop falling	\$4,097	\$9,304	5 shifts Lost Time + 5 shifts Limited Duty



# History of DFR Injuries

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Paid in W.C.</b>	<b>Paid for Hire-Backs</b>	<b>Shifts off for injury</b>
August 2008	Strained abdomen lifting pt on stretcher going down stairs	\$2,370	\$4,652	5 shifts Lost Time
Sept. 2008	Strained back lifting pt on stretcher	\$28,269	\$10,234	11 shifts Lost Time
Sept. 2008	Back started to spasm in ER after unloading pt on stretcher	\$2,213	\$754	18 hrs day of injury
Nov. 2008	Strained hip lifting pt on stretcher	\$227	\$2,791	3 shifts Lost Time
Dec. 2008	Strained back lifting pt on stretcher to load	\$12,932	\$20,469	4 shifts Lost Time + 18 shifts Limited Duty
Dec. 2008	Strained neck lifting pt on stretcher to load	\$1,186	0	0
Jan. 2009	Strained abdomen lifting heavy pt on stretcher	\$7,474	\$13,026	5 shifts Lost Time + 9 shifts Limited Duty



# History of DFR Injuries

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Paid in W.C.</b>	<b>Paid for Hire-Backs</b>	<b>Shifts off for injury</b>
March 2009	Strained knee lifting pt on stretcher – pt got sideways & began to fall	\$1,064	\$2,791	3 shifts Lost Time
April 2009	Strained back lifting pt on stretcher to load	\$856	\$930	1 shift Lost Time
April 2009	Strained shoulders loading pt on stretcher who began to fall	\$72,970	\$72,571	78 shifts Lost Time (27 in 2009 & 51 in 2010)
May 2009	Sprained wrist lifting pt on stretcher to load	0	\$606	0
June 2009	Strained abdomen lifting pt on stretcher	\$2,020	0	0
June 2009	Strained back & hip lifting patient on stretcher to load into rescue	\$2,186	0	0
July 2009	Strained back lifting & walking backward downhill with pt on stretcher	\$3,261	\$7,443	7 shifts Lost Time + 1 shift Limited Duty



# Total Cost to Department Related to Injuries (Thru 2009)

- \$160,764 – paid in Workers Compensation benefits (medical & income)
- \$168,277 – paid in hire-backs to cover for injured member
- **Total - \$329,041**
  - *\*Some of these claims are still active and will incur significant future expenditures for medical care and/or income benefits*



# Power-Pro XT

- The Stryker Power-Pro XTs were purchased for \$12,000 each with a 3 year manufacturer's warranty
- Dallas Fire-Rescue recently replaced 16 "H" Frame Stretchers with the new Stryker Power-Pro XT this year (2010)
- Additional power stretchers will be purchased as new Rescues are purchased



# Power Stretcher Advantage

- Current “H” Frame
  - Requires paramedics to manually raise the stretcher
  - One paramedic lifts the wheels to load the stretcher into the Rescue
  - Only one paramedic pushes the stretcher into the Rescue
- Power-Pro XT
  - Hydraulic lift capable of lifting patients in tight locations
  - Stretcher automatically lifts the patient and then raises the wheels to load into Rescue
  - 2 paramedics then push the stretcher into Rescue



# Fire Departments Across Texas Currently Using the Power-Pro XT

- Houston
- San Antonio
- Plano
- Mesquite
- Irving
- Austin
- El Paso



# Save Injuries - Guaranteed!

- Stryker states – “We guarantee at least a 50 percent decrease in injuries using Power-PRO cots as compared to non-powered cots or we will replace your Power-PRO units with conventional, non-powered units and refund the difference in cost.”



# Summary

- With the addition of the hydraulic power stretcher, Dallas Fire-Rescue anticipates a reduction in firefighter injuries associated with lifting patients. The Stryker Power-Pro XT will add an innovative and powerful tool to our outstanding EMS Service.