

# New fire truck on display outside City Hall



Erick Bengel/The Daily Astorian  
A 2016-model chassis from Pierce Manufacturing, the Astoria Fire Department's new ladder truck has a 105-foot ladder and a dual-rear axle.

Erick Bengel/The Daily Astorian  
The Astoria Fire Department's new ladder truck was parked outside City Hall on Monday, with the older, smaller one behind it.

By ERICK BENDEL  
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Fire Department parked its new ladder truck — a 2016-model chassis from Pierce Manufacturing — outside City Hall on 11th

Street before the City Council meeting Monday.

And, the department hopes, the vehicle will never have to be deployed for emergencies.

Behind it was the old truck, the 1988 Simon Duplex that made a cameo appearance in

“Kindergarten Cop,” which was filmed in Astoria.

The city purchased the new truck for \$904,777 in cash. It has a dual-rear axle, a ladder length of 105 feet and — at least for now — a “Goonies” sticker affixed to the rear.

Pierce personnel added the unordered decal after learning the truck was headed to Astoria, Fire Chief Ted Ames said. “The Goonies,” he discovered, is a rather big deal in Wisconsin, home of Pierce headquarters.



Erick Bengel/The Daily Astorian  
Pierce Manufacturing, the company that produced the Astoria Fire Department's new ladder truck, affixed this Goonies sticker near the rear of the vehicle. Fire Chief Ted Ames learned “The Goonies” is apparently beloved in Wisconsin, where Pierce is based.

## Astoria Police need to fill vacancies on force

By JACK HEFFERNAN  
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Police Department is looking for three new officers for its staff of 16.

One officer resigned, while two more accepted positions with the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office just a month later in late March and early April. The department had previously hired an officer earlier this year, which filled a two-year vacancy.

The recent departures likely will lead to detectives taking on patrol shifts, having only two officers working a given shift, fewer community outreach events and an increase in overtime pay, Police Chief Brad Johnston said. Johnston and Deputy Chief Eric Halverson may also need to respond to calls. The strains are already revealing themselves. One detective, for instance, will take some patrol shifts next week while also spending time preparing to testify in the trial of accused kidnaper and rapist Russell Wayne Deviney.

“It's going to be a very difficult time for our department,” Johnston said.

While officers being hired at different agencies is fairly common, an exodus of this kind is pretty rare, Johnston said. Wages, jurisdiction sizes and specialization opportunities all can contribute to an officer's decision to apply elsewhere.



Police Chief Brad Johnston said the department could have a difficult time while it fills vacancies.

Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

tures for weeks, it posted the job openings just last week. The delay allowed the department to offer more competitive wages after a recent collective bargaining agreement between the city and the Astoria Public Safety Association.

Once a prospective officer passes background checks and psychological evaluations, he or she must complete one year of training at the state Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. While the Astoria Police Department plans to begin interviews toward the end of next month, any new hires will not be patrolling city streets any time soon.

“I will be amazed if we have two people filled in 11 months,” Johnston said.

“Each entity has its own personality,” Johnston said. “In police hiring, there's not a lot of certainty until it's close to the hire date.”

Though the department has been aware of the depart-

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