

# WAR DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATION BILL 1929

## HEARINGS

Extract

### PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF FIRE APPARATUS

Mr. Clague. The next item is for the purchase and installation of fire apparatus, \$131,650, the same amount as was appropriated in 1928.

General Horton. Yes sir; there is no change in that item.

Mr. Clague. Are you getting new fire apparatus?

General Horton. Yes sir; at Holabird we are taking some of the chassis that the Transportation Service are no longer using and we are building fire engines with foam attachment which can be used for fighting oil fires. We are building them at a much less price than they can be bought for. I have a statement concerning them which I think is quite interesting. I will submit it to you, and if you desire to have it in the record, I will put it in. The statement shows that we are building the fire engine for \$4,000, whereas if we buy these in the open market from commercial firms the cost will be from \$12,000 to \$14,000.

Mr. Barbour. We went into that fully last year, did we not?

General Horton. Yes, I inspected those at Camp Holabird and they are very interesting and they have given very good service. We feel that we are doing something out there of real benefit in building these machines.

Mr. Taber. They are working all right?

General Horton. Yes, sir; they are.

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#### STATEMENT SHOWING COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF FIRE APPARATUS

1. The construction of new fire engines was started on a production basis at the Holabird Quartermaster Depot on July 1, 1927. These engines are being built by using a standard B Army truck chassis, purchasing and installing of fire pump, building a suitable fire department body and purchasing and installing the various items of equipment that go to make up a complete fire engine. The cost of constructing these engines with all equipment is averaging thus far \$4,000 per unit as follows:

Cost of remodeling body and chassis.....	\$1, 250
Purchase and installation of fire pump, tank, brake rod and connections..	1, 650
Painting.....	220
Purchase and installation of miscellaneous equipment such as hose, ex- tinguishers, axes, lanterns, etc.....	880
Total.....	4, 000

2. In place of the special foam producing chemical engines which it was originally intended to construct permission was secured to build the regular standard BF fire engine as above, and equip it with a foam generator to be used for fighting

oil fires. These engines are identical with the pumping engine mentioned above but are especially equipped with a generator for producing foam. Provisions are made for carrying a supply of the chemical in powder form that is needed for this generator. These units are costing thus far \$4,488.75 each, as follows:

Cost of pumping engine as above.....	\$4, 000. 00
Purchase and installation of foam generator equipment.....	488. 75

3. A number of these engines are already in service and are functioning with a high degree of efficiency. They are replacing commercial type fire engines that originally cost the Government from \$12,000 to \$14,000 each.

End



*This image was not part of the hearing but shows an example of the BF fire truck from about 1928.*

*Camp Meade, Maryland*

*Transcribed by Ted Heinbuch 2019*