



MEMO

To: Operations Chief Odell
From: Firefighter Nick Marcheso, Firefighter Matt Hawkins and Lt. Eric Armitage
Date: March 20, 2012
Subject: Leather Helmet Proposal

The purpose of this memo is to propose the purchase of the Phenix TL2-1500 leather helmet.

As the following information will show, we have gone to great lengths to research all angles of the purchase which include, but are not limited to: Safety, NFPA compliance, OSHA compliance, GFD specifications, performance, comfort, longevity, aesthetics and traditional feel.

We are available for further questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Durability? That is, will this helmet have same life-span as P.C. so that replacement sched is same?

if so, Approved as of 3-22-2010 JH Odell

Phenix TL2-1500 Leather Traditional Helmet Proposal

Safety and Performance Advantages:

The Phenix TL2-1500 uses a manufacturing technique that adds a degree of flexibility to the longer rear brim, a feature that currently does not exist on our current helmets. This feature allows the helmet's brim to flex when hit by falling objects rather than snap violently, reducing the likelihood of a neck injury. Additionally, the raised crossover beams are more resilient, adding an additional measure of protection when struck from above. The manufacturer states the following: The injection molded thermoplastic inner shell, with its closed cell foam impact cap, offers such a high level of impact and thermal protection, that it can pass all the compliancy requirements for a structural helmet by itself. Further, the leather provides an extra layer of thermal protection as well as an additional layer of impact protection.

Additional protection is provided to the already tough and resilient leather shell by the fire retardant paint that is specifically formulated for leather products. The advantage to this is that if the leather is scraped or gouged it can easily be touched up—and for most firefighters who appreciate leather, it just adds to the rugged patina.

From a performance and comfort perspective, we show a comparison between the Phenix and our current helmet, the Paul Conway American Classic.

	NFPA Approved	Closed energy impact cap	Weight	High temperature thermoplastic dome	Three position, rear ratchet adjustment
Phenix	X	X	55 Oz	X	X
Paul Conway	X	X	63.7 Oz	X	X

As this chart shows, all important specifications are comparable however the Phenix exceeds the comfort of the Paul Conway in the most important category, weight. This 14% reduction in weight is even more important based upon the fact that the weight is carried by the head and neck.

Additional comfort benefits include a low center of gravity that is center balanced, thus, promoting a very low degree of neck fatigue.

Prices and Options:

TL2 1500 with ESS goggles and detachable ear flaps	\$402.81
Flip down eye shields	\$52.50
Embossed name on rear brim	\$37.50
Deluxe leather head band	\$30.31
Under brim embossed logo (GFD, IAFF, 343)	\$37.50
Leather front ID shield (Greeley custom design)	\$32.50

*Quantity discount – orders over 12 helmets save \$15.00 per helmet

This difference in price between the Paul Conway American Classic and the upgraded Phenix 1500 TL2 would be approximately \$100.00. My proposal is that those electing to upgrade would pay the difference out of pocket, a modest fee in the eyes of those who feel the additional protection, comfort and old school traditional appeal is more than worth it.

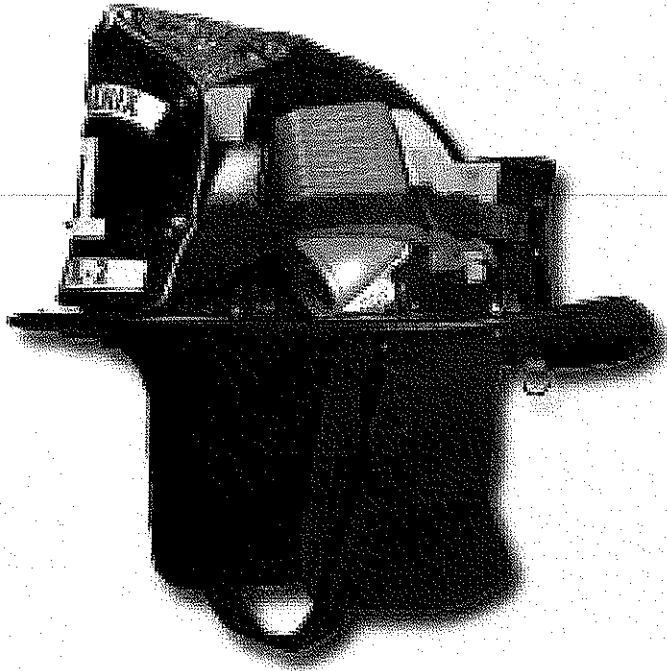
Max fire, the Phenix vendor, has simplified this process by allowing departments to cover the initial expense and charging the firefighter directly to cover the balance, leaving the department free from the obligation and hassle of recovering the difference. In fact, Max Fire has done this for many departments that have allowed firefighters to purchase these helmets.

The approval of this proposal would incur no additional expense for the department and allow firefighters who do not wish to pay the additional expense to upgrade to leather, to use the department supplied Paul Conway model which is nearly identical in appearance.

Aesthetics and Traditional Appeal:

Historians credited Jacobus Turck of New York City with inventing the first leather fire cap around 1740. The traditional fire helmet as we know it today was developed some time between 1821 and 1836. The gentleman credited with its founding was named Henry T. Gratacap who was a volunteer fireman in New York City.

Since that time, the American fire service helmet has evolved into not only the armor of the individuals that place themselves in harms way, but a powerful symbol of honor, pride, passion and dedication towards a career steeped in tradition. It is our opinion that the ability to perpetuate this legacy would assist in influencing an additional boost in morale. For those of us that wish to honor tradition, having the option to express this pride by wearing this helmet would truly be a treat for the firefighter's soul. Leather Forever!



- Top grade veg-tanned leather shell with commemorative 9-11 filigree design
- American made brass eagle finial
- High temperature thermoplastic dome
- Eight 3M lime-yellow reflective tetrahedrons
- Closed cell energy impact cap
- Exclusive Phenix suspension liner (nape strap or ratchet)
- Custom comfort pad integrated into suspension liner.
- Black Nomex and fire retardant cotton 8" earlaps (sewn-in or detachable)
- Nomex webbing chinstrap (postman's slide, quick release, or combination)
- NFPA compliant goggles with long strap (ATAC or ESS)
- D-ring on rear brim
- Compliant to current NFPA, CAL and US OSHA standards

Optional components:

- Customer leather ID shield
- Accessory pack(Includes: assessor band, 2 door wedges, and a Garrity lite)
- Flip down eye shield
- Deluxe leather comfort package(see accessories page)
- Custom name stamping