

# **GREELEY FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Operations Chief Odell

**FROM:** Firefighter Nick Marcheso and Firefighter Matt Hawkins

**RE:** Leather Helmet Proposal

**DATE:** Marche 17. 2012

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Attached is a proposal to allow employees to use their own money beyond the cost of the current helmets being purchased by the Greeley Fire Department if they choose to do so. The Hemet being proposed is the Phenix TL2-1500, which meets the NFPA 1971 standard and is also OSHA compliant.

Considerable research was taken to determine that the proposed helmet would meet our current GFD specifications. This helmet would be purchased in part by GFD with the remainder of the balance being the responsibility of the employee. Max Fire, the vender of the fire helmets has informed us that there would be two purchase orders for every helmet order made. The first purchase order going to the GFD, which would consist of the total of the current helmets, we are currently wearing. The second purchase order would go to each individual. The vender will get the credit card number of each individual who choose to purchase the leather helmet and put the remaining balance on his or her credit card, prior to the helmet being shipped.

**How does the helmet benefit the GFD?**

The helmet would benefit the GFD in morale, this stated because the American Fire Service helmets are the armor of the individuals that place themselves in harms way. The American fire helmet is one of the most powerful symbols of honor, pride, and dedication, and by giving the GFD firefighters the option of traditional leather it is a treat for the firefighter’s soul, and will also maintain the same safety benefits for personal PPE. Also benefit in less maintenance due to the pride and ownership one will obtain by owning a leather helmet.

**Why Phenix made the product:**

The Phenix Traditional Leather Helmet. A perfect fit for the firefighter who wants the unmatched vintage look surprising performance of real leather. Made even better with today’s most advanced Fire Helmet technology. Leather made even better. Phenix Technology makes its leather helmet shells from only the finest top grain cowhide. This exceptionally strong, flexible leather provides the traditional look that so many firefighters cherish. But that’s where the resemblance to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century fire helmet ends. Firefighting has changed there for PPE has changed accordingly. Even leather has changed. Phenix found that a leather helmet kept soft and flexible will stand as much or more abuse than the early leather helmets, and even more than many of today’s finest composites.

**Experience with the project:**

We have talked to many surrounding departments that have allowed leather helmets into their department. We have looked at their policy on the leather helmet and have them here to evaluate.

Information below is the comparison on the current helmet and the NFPA compliant Phenix leather helmet. The Phenix 1500 TL2 leather helmet is a certified NFPA helmet that looks uniformed to the Paul Conway American Classic which GFD issues. This would be important to maintain uniformity and appearance within GFD.

	Closed energy impact cap	Weight	High temperature thermoplastic dome	Three position, rear ratchet height adjustment	NFPA Approved
Phenix	X	56 OZ	X	X	X
Paul Conway	X	63.7 OZ	X	X	X