Financial Benefits of Leasing Fire Apparatus

Fire apparatus are major capital investments, often costing between **$500,000 and $1.5 million**. Leasing or financing these vehicles can help a city manage its cash flow, preserve reserves, and maintain modern, reliable emergency equipment. Below is an overview of how leasing supports sound municipal financial management.

Benefit	How Leasing Helps
Cash Flow Management	Spreads cost over several years, avoiding large one-time capital outlays.
Preserves Fund Balances	Keeps reserve funds intact and maintains strong credit ratings.
Matches Cost to Service Life	Payments align with the apparatus's useful life (10–20 years).
Tax-Exempt Interest Savings	Municipal leases offer lower interest rates than commercial loans.
Budget Flexibility	Allows acquisition now with payments structured to fit fiscal calendars.
Fleet Replacement Planning	Supports predictable replacement schedules and reduces maintenance costs.
Administrative Simplicity	Avoids the costs and delays of voter-approved bond issues.

Summary: Leasing fire trucks offers cities predictable budgeting, low-cost financing, and smoother fleet replacement planning. It enables departments to maintain modern, safe equipment while preserving financial stability.