

Engine & Drivetrain

- Engine Hours
- maintenance or service logs
- Engine starts cleanly (cold and warm)
- Excessive smoke, knocking, or leaks
- Transmission engagement and shifting
- Differential and driveline condition

Pump & Water System

- Pump engagement and disengagement
- Leaks around valves and fittings
- Corrosion in plumbing
- Foam systems (if equipped)
- Pump winterized properly
- Confirm last pump test date

Ladder or Aerial (If Applicable)

- Inspect ladder rails, rungs, and hydraulic systems
- Check extension, retraction, and rotation
- Look for visible cracks, rust, or hydraulic leaks

Electrical Systems

- Emergency lights and sirens
- Control panels
- Scene lighting
- Inverter and generator systems
- Dashboard warning lights
- Functionality of switches and panels
- Battery condition and wiring wear

Body, Frame & Compartments

- Rust on frame and undercarriage
- Aluminum body corrosion
- Door seals and compartment latches
- Evidence of structural damage

Equipment Included (or Removed)

- What stays and what's removed
- Mounted tools, hose reels, racks
- Cabinets sold empty vs equipped

Notes

How to Inspect If You Can't Visit in Person

If an in-person inspection isn't possible:

✓ Review the Listing Carefully

- Read the full description
- Zoom into all photos
- Look for disclaimers or condition notes

✓ Contact the Seller

- Most listings include a seller contact. Ask:
- Is the vehicle running?
- Known mechanical issues?
- Last time it was in service service?
- Reason for surplus?

✓ Request Additional Photos or Info

- Many sellers are willing to provide:
- Engine bay photos
- Undercarriage shots
- Hour meter readings
- Videos of moving parts

Common Fire Truck Inspection Red Flags

- ▶ Severe frame rust or structural corrosion
- ▶ Pump or ladder listed as "non-functional"
- ▶ Missing title or unclear documentation
- ▶ Incomplete listing with minimal photos
- ▶ Seller unable to answer basic questions

These don't always mean "don't buy" – but they should affect your bid price.