



CHIPLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT
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To: Chipley City Council

From: Hunter Aycock, Fire Chief

This letter is to inform you that our department has been working relentlessly to form a dedicated rope rescue team for our area. The critical need for such a team is underscored by several key factors that directly impact our ability to respond effectively to emergencies involving high-angle environments and other scenarios requiring specialized rescue techniques. This is a service that Chipley Fire Department cannot currently provide, and neither can any other agency in the immediate area. As of now Walton County Fire Department is our closest resource at an estimated dispatch to work time of approximately two hours. When time is of the essence this could be the difference in a successful rescue. In recent years we have had a notable increase in the number of emergencies involving rope rescue scenarios, and as our community evolves along with infrastructure development this will only increase. The most recent example of this occurred on May 24, 2024 at Falling Waters State Park.

Rope rescue and high angle scenarios require a high level of skill and expertise along with equipment. Chipley Fire Department has been awarded a scholarship class by Wright Rescue Solutions Inc for eight personnel to attend Rescue Rope Operations class. This will be a forty hour Florida state certified class that will prepare our members to successfully and safely perform these tasks. This class was not accepted in our last budget at approximately \$16,000 due to budget constraints. At that point our department started seeking alternative ways to fund this need. We would like approval to purchase the necessary equipment for rope operations in the amount of \$14,500. We would like to utilize the funds we will be receiving from the sale of the surplus equipment approved for surplus at the last council meeting to purchase this equipment.

Very respectfully,

Hunter Aycock