



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

AGENDA DATE: July 27, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: Consider allowing the Grand Rapids Fire Department to purchase a replacement RDC Water Rescue Craft from Oceanid and accessories.

PREPARED BY: Travis Cole-Fire Chief

BACKGROUND:

The Fire Department recently responded to a grass fire that required access using the department's Rapid Deployment Craft (RDC), an inflatable rescue craft utilized for ice, swift water, and other water rescue operations. During deployment, several tears were discovered in the craft, requiring temporary repairs with duct tape to safely complete the incident.

Following the response, department personnel conducted a thorough inspection and attempted permanent repairs. However, numerous additional tears and areas of deterioration were identified, making the craft no longer serviceable or safe for emergency operations. The RDC has been in service for more than 20 years and has reached the end of its useful life.

The Fire Department contacted three vendors to obtain pricing for a replacement RDC of the same manufacturer. Each vendor advised that the product is only available through direct purchase from the manufacturer. Replacing the craft with the same brand will ensure compatibility with the department's existing accessories and rescue equipment.

The purchase is not included in the 2026 Fire Department budget. However, the replacement will be fully funded using surplus reimbursement funds received from the Stewart and Flanders fire responses. As a result, there will be no financial impact to the City of Grand Rapids General Fund.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:

Make a motion to allow the Grand Rapids Fire Department to purchase a replacement RDC Water Rescue Craft from Oceanid and accessories for a total purchase price of \$5,500 plus and shipping costs using surplus reimbursement funds from the Stewart and Flanders fire responses.