



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

AGENDA DATE: 1/09/2026

AGENDA ITEM: Consider allowing the Grand Rapids Fire department to purchase hose, nozzles and structural firefighting PPE.

PREPARED BY: Travis Cole-Fire Chief

BACKGROUND:

Members of the Grand Rapids Fire Department took leave from their regular employment to assist with fire suppression and emergency response during two significant incidents in northern Minnesota. The first incident was the Camp House Wildland Fire, which occurred in May. The second was a severe storm event that caused extensive damage in the City of Bemidji in June of 2025.

Through established mutual aid and assistance agreements, jurisdictions are able to request and provide personnel and resources when available. These deployments are reimbursable, and in many cases, the reimbursements exceed the actual expenses incurred by the responding department.

For the Camp House Fire, the City of Grand Rapids incurred expenses totaling \$7,765.01 and received reimbursement from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$31,980.00. The Bemidji storm response resulted in expenses totaling \$2,423.06, with reimbursement of \$8,370.00. These two events generated a combined surplus of \$30,161.94.

After consultation with Assistant Finance Director Laura Pfeifer and City Administrator Tom Pagel, the surplus funds were deposited into the Fire Department's depreciation fund for the replacement of essential firefighting equipment, including hose, nozzles, and personal protective equipment (PPE).

Recent hose testing conducted by FireCatt evaluated 10,925 feet of fire hose, of which 2,550 feet failed testing. The Fire Department must replace 16 lengths of 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch hose, 8 lengths of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hose, and 12 lengths of large-diameter hose (LDH). Additionally, nozzle testing conducted

with the MES vendor identified a critical need to replace nozzles currently in service on department engines. These items are essential for effective firefighting operations.

The Fire Department obtained quotes from MES Fire and Clarey's Fire Equipment for the required hose and nozzles. MES Fire submitted the lowest quote.

In addition, the Fire Department recently hired four new firefighters and must purchase turnout gear and related equipment to properly outfit them and replenish inventory. This includes structural firefighting gloves, cancer-reducing Nomex hoods, boots, and other miscellaneous equipment.

These purchases are non-budgeted and will be fully funded using surplus reimbursements from the Camp House Fire and City of Bemidji storm response. Utilizing this funding source will result in zero impact to the City of Grand Rapids' general fund.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:

Approve the purchase of fire hose and nozzles from the low quote from MES Fire, along with miscellaneous firefighting equipment, for a total amount not to exceed \$30,161.94 plus applicable shipping costs, using surplus reimbursement funds from the Camp House Fire and City of Bemidji storm event.