

## **HARTFORD FIRE BOARD MEETING 06-10-24**

Reported by City Fire Board Representative Eric Germinder (**NOT** official meeting minutes).

Guest, in attendance, Donna Spenner, Lawrence Township Supervisor, came to ask the Fire Board if HFD could help out on quick response calls in Lawrence Township due to a serious shortage of personnel on the Lawrence Fire Department. A motion was approved to support our neighboring township at a minimal cost.

Approved Accounts Payable in the amount of \$37,317.43.

Reviewed documents from Siegfried Crandall PC, Certified Public Accountants & Advisors, Portage, Michigan. A motion was approved to have said company perform the audit for fiscal year ending June 30th, 2024, not to exceed \$5,200.

Approved Budget Adjustment #3.

Approved 2024/2025 Fiscal Year Meeting Schedule of the Hartford Fire Board. The meetings are still scheduled at the Township Hall until completion of the new VBEMS facility (currently scheduled to complete in September 2024).

Discussed and approved the 2024/2025 Fiscal Year Pay Matrix.

Discussed and approved purchase of new Lenova IdeaCenter I Gen 9 Business All-in-One computer station for the Fire Department not to exceed \$1,600. A 3 year protection plan is included in the price.

Discussed and reviewed bids from 3 companies for replacement nozzles for trucks 1871 and 1831. The current nozzles are 15 to 25 years old and not up to current technology. After discussion it was decided to go with Moses Fire Equipment, who had the lowest bid, and is the more local of the suppliers, at a cost not to exceed \$8,000.

Discussed and approved quote to purchase two (2) XD Washdown Kits not to exceed \$1,200. With the new OSHA standard going into effect later this summer, there is a need to decontaminate firefighters at the scene, before returning to the station.

Discussed and approved Policy Order 906 (Post Fire Decontamination). This needs to be in place to meet the requirements of the new OSHA standard.

Discussed and approved Policy Order 1109 (Apparatus Equipment out of Service). While a current system of placing a piece of equipment in service or out of service exists a written policy, including required notifications, will be required under the new OSHA standard.

Discussed and approved for a one year trial period contracting with FlowMsp for Fire pre-plan services. These pre-plans will be digital in the cloud and available to anyone with access to the internet. Currently HFD has hard copies of pre-plans in each truck. Cost not to exceed \$1,000. The software works similarly to our phone dispatch system, once a call is dispatched out, fire department personnel would receive an alert on their phones and have the option of selecting the pre-plan information, if it's available for that particular address. Additionally, if any of the mutual aid partners are utilizing the same software, we would be able to view their pre-plans. (Bangor Fire Department has been using this software for about 18 months, and are happy with it so far).

Discussed and tabled, until further information can be obtained, entering into an agreement with Fire Recovery USA for cost recovery services. Currently Assistant Chief McGrew has been creating an invoice and sending it out to the respective parties. This has become time consuming and, at times, confrontational with the parties involved. Additional time is spent with emails and phone calls with insurance companies. Much of this time turns out to be wasted as individuals or insurance companies refuse to pay. Once the party refuses to pay, the bill is turned over to a collection agency that charges us a fee for their services. With an agreement with Fire Recovery USA, it would eliminate all the above mentioned hassle.

Once a response is deemed a billable/cost recovery situation:

- \*Insurance information and responsible party are documented
- \*Assistant Chief McGrew enters the info into reporting system currently in use
- \*Once the report is finished and reviewed, within 3 hours Fire Recovery USA extracts the necessary information from the report and begins the process on their end
- \*Unless there are questions on the information entered, the fire department is done on their end.

Fire Recovery USA does not charge any up front fees, they would take 22% from the money they collect, and the rest is distributed to the Fire Department. They charge rates to the responsible parties based on National Insurance Standard and have precise techniques to collect fees.

Finally, Chairman Sefcik wanted us to start considering that, when the need arises to spend >\$10,000, instead of calling a special meeting, that the reps for the city and the township go to the respective board meetings and seek approval. No action taken, only for consideration.