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Agenda Item

Request to Continue Meeting with Fire Marshall's Office, Sandstone, and Hinckley

Meeting Date

September 9, 2025

Prepared By

Leaha M. Jackson, City Administrator

Background

At a Pine County Administrator's meeting this spring, discussion turned to our individual fire services. Similar challenges/concerns were identified by Sandstone, Hinckley and Pine City. It was suggested that we, as a group, look into a study through the State Fire Marshal's Office. Although no funding was available for a study at present, the Fire Marshal's Office has been willing to meet with us to discuss alternative options, including utilizing their personnel as a facilitator to explore our Fire Departments, their challenges, and potential solutions.

The first meeting was held on April 24th, with City Administrators, Mayors, and Fire Chiefs, and the State Fire Marshal representative. Four meetings have been held so far. It was decided to also include a firefighter representative from each Department. The group has been discussing various types of Fire Department organizations (e.g., Joint Powers Board, Fire District, partnerships) that could be implemented. So far, the group has established the 'why', which was determined to be "sustainability".

All who have been attending feel that it is beneficial to be proactive and continue in the process, with approval from our individual councils.

No decisions have been made at this point, as this undertaking is a learning process.

Should the Council approve the continuation of this study among the three cities, the Fire Marshall's Office, City Administrators, and Mayors will provide updates at future City Council meetings.

Recommended Action

Continue the meetings with monthly updates to the Council

Council Action: Motion by: _____ Second by: _____

Motion to:

Voted in Favor: _____ Voted Against: _____

Approved: _____ Denied: _____ Tabled: _____ No Action: _____