



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

FROM: Blake Hayward – Fire Chief

DATE OF MEETING: July 1, 2024

ITEM TITLE: Department Update – Fire Department

Since our last report, Independence Fire has participated in several events involving the Fire Department. We attended the Annual Career Fair at the High School, which was a great chance to meet with students and staff, discuss public safety, and show some tools and equipment. We participated in the Guns & Hoses Bowling Fundraiser. This event is the 2nd year of doing it, and we partner up with other public safety agencies to raise money for delinquent lunch balances for Independence and St John's Schools. We hosted a Countywide Joint River Rescue Training where we had Fire/EMS, and Law Enforcement agencies come together to train on several topics about river rescue and boat operations. And just last week, we attended Kidsville to talk with kids about fire safety, show some tools and equipment, and read a couple of books to the kids.

We also have been busy working on the EMS tax levy with several others from the Buchanan County Emergency Medical Association group. We have finished up the proposal and it should be on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors in early July to get approval and be submitted for the ballot in the next month. This has been a long process, but thanks to several members of the BCEMSA, we have been able to come up with a budget and plan to help assist EMS services countywide.

We have submitted a grant application to the Buchanan County Health Trust for Extrication Gloves. We need replacement gloves as our older ones are showing their age and starting to fall apart. We currently have a 50% match, and if we are awarded the grant, we will be able to purchase those right away.

Last but certainly not least, we held our Annual Golf Tournament on Father's Day Weekend. We had a record year of sponsors as well as teams signed up for the event. We were able to slide a few extra teams in on the longer Par 5 which got us a total of 19 teams. We had several new sponsors this year, as well as several regular sponsors that help us out year after year. We are VERY thankful for the sponsors who supported the event, as well as all the teams that signed up. I haven't heard the grand total for money raised, but in the last report, we were on pace to break an all-time record. We were also very fortunate to have a local Church approach the association and ask if they could provide a meal for everyone who golfed in the tournament. Of course, we accepted their offer, and everyone who golfed in the tournament enjoyed amazing brisket, pulled pork, and several side dishes. We are blessed to have the support of the community and several businesses as we continue to grow with our Golf Event each year.

Blake Hayward – Fire Chief