



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

FROM: Blake Hayward – Fire Chief

DATE OF MEETING: July 28, 2025

ITEM TITLE: Disposal of Extrication Equipment

BACKGROUND:

At the July 14th, 2025 Council Meeting, the Council approved the purchase of new extrication equipment with funds from local grants and the Independence Fire Rescue Association. Independence Fire is seeking permission to dispose of its older extrication equipment by accepting sealed bids from fire departments and/or the public, with preference given to fire departments if the bids are identical.

DISCUSSION:

The older extrication tools that we are replacing were purchased in 2013-2014. Since then, many extrication manufacturers have gone on to produce battery-powered extrication equipment. This equipment has the same, if not more power, than the gas-powered tools, is lighter weight, and quieter to operate on an emergency scene. The gas-powered tools still have value for fire departments that don't have extrication equipment, are looking to upgrade their extrication equipment, or have a robust and reliable backup set of extrication equipment.

RESULTS:

The City has established priorities during strategic planning sessions. This item supports the Vision from that session of efficient and effective planning and prioritizing of all available resources. This item helps achieve that vision by possibly helping a smaller department obtain important life-saving equipment at a fraction of the cost while still helping our department financially via the sale of this equipment.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

We will work with fire service vendors to find a fair price for these tools. If the Council would like, we could set a minimum price before going to sealed bids. This may delay the process of selling the tools, but it also ensures we retain a certain dollar amount. If a minimum price is requested, I'd like permission to work with City Manager Schmitz, Fire Service Vendors, and the Department to determine a suitable dollar amount.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends a motion to approve the sale of extrication equipment via sealed bids, with matching bids given preference to fire departments over the public.