
INTEROFFICE



MEMORANDUM

To: Melissa Marsh, City Manager
From: Greg Lelito, Fire Chief
Re: Capital purchase – Turnout Gear
Date: 7/3/2025

In May 2024, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity announced a grant opportunity for full-time fire departments to support the purchase of a second set of turnout gear for firefighters. This program provides up to \$3,500 per eligible firefighter and is designed to enhance the safety and operational readiness of firefighters.

On July 29, 2024, our department received an \$83,206.00 grant through this program. The funding will cover the purchase of 23 sets of turnout gear over two years. It requires no match and will fully reimburse 100% of the costs.

In August 2024, the City Council approved Phase One of this project, which included the purchase of 17 sets of turnout gear. We are now requesting approval for Phase Two, which consists of purchasing an additional five sets.

To ensure efficiency and compliance with procurement standards, the department has obtained a quote from Axes & Irons through Sourcewell, a nationally recognized cooperative purchasing program. Sourcewell contracts ensure competitive pricing and streamline the purchasing process for public entities.

Staff and I respectfully recommend that the City Council waive the formal bidding process and approve the purchase of five sets of turnout gear from Axes & Irons through Sourcewell, at a total cost of \$16,070.40. Funding for this purchase has been allocated in the FY 2025–26 budget and will be fully reimbursed through the grant.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or for further details.