

Fire Department Memorandum

To: Michelle Wolfe, Blaine City Manager
Nyle Zikmund, Mounds View City Administrator
Dan Buchholtz, Spring Lake Park City Administrator

From: Dan Retka, Fire Chief

Re: Public Safety Money

Date: January 30, 2024

This memo is intended to serve as a request to spend allocated Public Safety Funds on immediate department needs. It's our intent to ensure that these funds are not used to fund operational expenses that may affect future Operational Budgets.

The cities of Spring Lake Park, Blaine, Mounds View committed 30% of the Public Safety Money provided by the state to each city to be used for Public Safety needs. SBM staff identified where the funds would best be used to fill needs associated with the staffing increase.

Firefighter Safety continues to be the number one priority we have. The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) price has increased by nearly 3 times since 2022. The current lead time for new gear is 6-8 months. We are in need of 25 more sets of gear ASAP to ensure all of our responders have proper PPE.

\$150,000

In 2023 SBM began replacing old worn-out uniforms that are to be worn while on shift and or while performing community education / events. Its important to provide matching uniforms for our crews to ensure good moral, and image in the community. Combined with the new uniforms, SBM Staff will be commissioning a rebranding of our logo / patch. It has been nearly 40 years since the last rebrand.

\$50,000

With the change to Duty Crew in 2024, our Battalion Chiefs are required to respond to several call types with their assigned squads. The last 5 squads were purchased used due to lack of inventory and limited budget. SBM is requesting authorization to purchase 2 new squads.

\$140,000

Total request \$340,000 to be spent from public safety funds with the remainder of funds to stay in the SBM Capital Improvement Fund.

