



Office of the Fire/EMS Chief  
312 W. Whitewater Street  
Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190

---

[www.whitewater-wi.gov](http://www.whitewater-wi.gov)  
Telephone: (262) 473-0116

November 17, 2025

**To:** Members of the Finance Committee and Common Council

**Subject:** Turnout Gear Budget Consideration for End of 2025 and Q1 2026

This memo is to provide you with a budget update and recommendation regarding turnout gear purchases for the Fire Department.

At this time, there is a remaining fund balance of **\$10,700** in the 2025 Fire Department budget designated for the purchase of turnout gear. Currently, **five** staff members require new gear. Following the start of the new year, when our referendum staffing is onboarded, we will need to purchase an additional **three** sets of turnout gear.

Our turnout gear manufacturer offers a discounted unit price when **six or more** sets are purchased in a single order. To capitalize on this cost savings, I recommend that the remaining 2025 funds be carried forward and that we place a consolidated order in **Quarter 1 of 2026**, once the new hires have joined the department.

This approach will allow us to maximize available budget resources while ensuring all personnel receive the required protective equipment in a timely manner.

Please let me know if further details or cost estimates are needed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly Freeman".

Kelly Freeman  
Fire/EMS Chief