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FIRE DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator
Fran Donelson, Administrative Secretary
Jerry Ewers, Fire Chief

FROM: Mike Hartman, Assistant Fire Chief

DATE: September 30, 2015

SUBJECT: City Council Agenda Item – Toughbook laptop purchases

INTRODUCTION:

The Fire Department is requesting a purchase of two computers.

BACKGROUND:

The Muscatine Fire Department is changing electronic Patient Care Report (ePCR) software effective November 1. The new software vendor does not support use of the Windows XP operating system. Microsoft ended support of this operating system on April 8, 2014 and since that time there have been an increasing number of reports of security issues. Due to the sensitive nature and federal regulations regarding the security of patient care data the new vendor will not allow use of the old system. In consultation with the City IT Department as well as research regarding upgrading of the operating system, it is strongly suggested that the old machines not be upgraded due to hardware insufficiencies that will cause issues with the new operating system.

RECOMMENDATION/RATIONALE:

Bids were obtained for purchase of two Toughbook CF-19 ruggedized laptops. The purchase of two will properly outfit the ambulances with the hardware needed for the new software. The Department has used this model of laptop for over 5 years without any major issues, as the ruggedized design is meant for the often rough conditions of use while on the road. In addition, this model is the same as is presently used so that there remains consistency among the ambulances and machines used. A quote was obtained from Kel Tec in the amount of \$7645.42 for two in-stock machines. Similar machines were priced at \$8095.48 from Ingram Technologies and \$8170.54 from Barcode Giant. The Kel Tec bid is state bid for these machines. It is recommended to purchase these two machines so that they can be prepared for the transition. While these computers were not included in the original Ambulance budget, the actual 2014/15 ending balance in the Ambulance fund was significantly higher than projected and it is proposed that the 2015/16 budget be amended to include funding for these computers.

**"I remember Muscatine for its sunsets. I have never seen any
on either side of the ocean that equaled them" — Mark Twain**