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FIRE DEPARTMENT**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator

FROM: Jerry Ewers, Fire Chief

DATE: October 14, 2011

SUBJECT: City Council Agenda Item – Aerial Repairs

INTRODUCTION:

The 1997 135' Aerial Ladder Truck # 310 is in need of immediate repairs. The Aerial Ladder has been out of service and failed the required NFPA ladder/boom test. The Fire Department is seeking approval for \$ 70,665.00, plus shipping costs from Finland, to have Emergency Apparatus Maintenance, Inc. repair the Aerial Ladder.

BACKGROUND:

The Muscatine Fire Department purchased the Aerial Ladder Truck in FY 96/97. The purchase price was \$ 825,000, but with the pre-payment the actual purchase price was \$ 795,088. Grain Processing also donated \$ 150,000 towards the actual purchase price of the Aerial Ladder.

The Aerial Ladder waterway and packings have four (4) sections that slide in and out of each other during operations when extending or extracting the boom that needs replaced immediately. The four (4) waterway tubes, guide sleeves, gaskets, nylon support rings, and brass seals have significant wear with cut and gouge marks along the entire tubes which damaged the seals and packings at each section. This makes it impossible to pressurize the waterway and maintain pressure and volume through the master stream of the Aerial bucket. This also creates a severe safety hazard with the heavy water leakage from each packing that will cause water to freeze on the ladder and rungs and prevent the boom from operating and from extracting into normal position. The damage to the waterways and the operational failures caused the Aerial Ladder to fail the NFPA ladder/boom test. This also creates a safety and risk hazard for the city until it is repaired, re-inspected, and passes the NFPA test after the repairs occur.

It is recommended that the City of Muscatine rent an available aerial ladder device from Sioux City Fire Department in the amount of \$ 500.00 per week or \$ 1,700.00 per month in order for our community to have the full protection of an aerial device while ours is in Minnesota obtaining the necessary repairs.

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

Emergency Apparatus Maintenance, Inc. states the delivery of the parts from Finland will be approximately 6 - 10 weeks to their factory. The Aerial would need to be in Minnesota for approximately 10 – 15 days to complete the necessary repairs. After the repairs are completed the Aerial will be retested, which is required by NFPA.

RECOMMENDATION/RATIONALE:

Request authorization to issue purchase order to Emergency Apparatus Maintenance, Inc, which will not exceed \$ 70,665.00, plus the additional shipping costs from Finland. This purchase will require an amendment to the Fire Department budget in the City's General Fund. During the upcoming budget review, however, the City will be reviewing the transfer from the Ambulance fund to the Fire Department budget. Based on the increased ambulance runs and revenues in fiscal year 2010/2011, this funding transfer will likely increase by an amount which will fund all or a significant portion of this purchase.