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**APPLETON FIRE DEPARTMENT
700 N. DREW STREET
APPLETON, WI 54911**

MEMORANDUM

To: Alderperson Kole Oswald, Chair; Safety & Licensing Committee
Alderperson Kathy Plank, Chair; Finance Committee
Members of the Common Council

From: Chief Len Vander Wyst

CC: Deputy Chief Reece

Date: 1/29/2014

Re: 2014 Purchase of Replacement Fire Department Rescue Boat

In the 2014 capital budget, the Appleton Fire Department budgeted \$53,000 for the replacement of our existing rescue boat. Since conducting an on-going review over the past seven years of available options for the replacement of the current fire department rescue boat, the fire department is recommending the purchase of the "Rescue One Connector Boat". Several factors were considered in the recommendation:

1. **Application:** The fire department has had rescue capability with the combination of rigid hull and inflatable hull boats designed for the varying water conditions (flat-moving and turbulent-swift water). In addition to the current capabilities, the recommended boat will be capable of firefighting for water craft and other potential fire conditions along the Fox River. This upgrade to the Rescue One boat will also provide additional rescue access. The Rescue One boat has a "dive platform" that will allow for added ease and safety of getting victims and rescuers into the boat including when we assist Outagamie County Sheriff Dive Team. The new motor will be a pump-jet motor which offers better control as found in a prop motor and in-water safety as found with a jet motor.
2. **Size:** The boat has to be sized so that it will be maneuverable within the dynamics of the Fox River in Appleton. Many fire/rescue boats are too large, designed for larger bodies of water.
3. **Hull Material:** The hull needs to be able to sustain impact with rocks while not sustaining integrity failure and/or not requiring significant repair. Fiberglass hulls would not hold up well in the Fox River within the areas of large, sharp rocks that we often encounter near the dams.

Rubber/inflatable boats provide better stability in turbulent water conditions (up close to the dams), thus the reason the fire department has two styles of boats. Larger inflatable boats (that have firefighting capability) have fiberglass hulls. The Rescue One boat is aluminum, which is lightweight and durable. The boat provides a stable work platform for flat, calm-water conditions, as well as some capability in turbulent water conditions. The difference between the Rescue One, aluminum hull, and other aluminum hull boats is patented design features that make the boat lighter which would allow the boat to be carried to a launch point, if one were not available for launching the boat via trailer. (Several areas of the Fox River in Appleton do not have access to launch a trailered boat.) Additionally, the patented design has a greater weight capacity than the normal aluminum boats of similar size and style. This will allow for more people and/or equipment to be transported at one time.

4. Design Features: The Rescue One Connector boat is designed specifically to provide the ability to securely connect to other Rescue One boats to form a larger work platform, the transom is recessed to provide protection of the motor (should the boat back into another object) as well as the flat surface for connecting with other boats. The boat has specific features for removable, floating storage benches and the inserting and removing of the fire pump.

Additionally, the Rescue One boat has a stacked trailer option so a second boat (i.e. our current inflatable boat) can be transported on the same trailer with easier, safer launch capabilities – minimizing the number of personnel needed to launch the inflatable as well as safer for the personnel (i.e. lifting injuries to shoulders/backs and slips).

The department has acquired price quotes from three authorized dealers of the Rescue One boat as follows:

MilPro Marine, LLC - \$36,570

Tennessee Valley Marine - \$37,420

Rescue One Connector Boats - \$37,420

Based on the above considerations, the department is seeking authorization to purchase the Rescue One Connector Boat from MilPRO Marine LLC for \$36,570 and the fire pump from W.S. Darley Fire & Safety Equipment for \$6,750. In addition, the department is requesting to utilize the remaining capital funds to properly equip the rescue boat appropriately for water and ice rescue incidents.

Please contact me should you have any questions or concerns. Thank you!