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

MEMORANDUM

To: Kyle Lobner, Chair - Safety & Licensing Committee, Common Council & Police and Fire Commission

From: Jeremy Hansen, Fire Chief

Date: October 11, 2018

Re: Request to Increase Service Level to Emergency Medical Technician - Basic

The Appleton Fire Department has been providing emergency medical service at the Emergency Medical Responder level since August 1998. In 2017, the department responded to 3,127 emergency medical calls which is approximately 66% of our emergency incidents. Over the years, the department has worked with our medical director and trained our personnel to provide advanced skills to those we serve. Some of the advanced skills include administering medications such as Albuterol, aspirin, Epinephrine and Narcan. Other advanced skills include utilizing the automatic external defibrillator (AED), spinal immobilization, applying tourniquets, and establishing advanced airways. These advanced skills were added to our skill set as we continue to increase the level of service to the community. The Appleton Fire Department anticipates continued future growth in the area of emergency medical response.

The next step in this effort would be to attain the Emergency Medical Technician – Basic (EMT-B) licensure from the State of Wisconsin for fire department personnel. Currently, 38 of our 91 sworn personnel hold the EMT-B or Paramedic credential from the State of Wisconsin.

Members of our internal EMS Committee developed a training program, in partnership with Fox Valley Technical College, that will provide the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities needed to meet the requirements set forth by the State of Wisconsin. The training program will be offered twice, once in spring 2019 and once in spring 2020. The two-year process can be accommodated within our existing training schedule and budget. The EMT-B licensure will allow our personnel to utilize additional skills during emergency medical incidents. Some of these skills include, more in depth patient assessment and medical emergency diagnosis, initial treatments for breathing difficulties, chest pain and diabetic emergencies. Each of which, require immediate medical intervention to deliver the best patient outcome.

Therefore, I am recommending that the Appleton Fire Department increase our emergency medical service from Emergency Medical Responder to EMT-B with the intent of having an operational plan submitted and approved by the State of Wisconsin by the end of 2020.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (920) 832-5810. Thank you!