

# CITY OF APPLETON

## FIRE DEPARTMENT



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## MEMORANDUM

February 17, 2022

To: Katie Van Zeeland, Chair – Safety & Licensing Committee and Common Council

From: Jeremy Hansen, Fire Chief

Cc: Ryan Weyers, Deputy Fire Chief

Re: Agreement for Urban Search and Rescue Emergency Response Services

Wisconsin urban search and rescue emergency response capability began in 2009. Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) and the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) contracts with local agencies to supply team members. A member of the team must meet the structural collapse requirements under the National Fire Protection Association standards.

The Appleton Fire Department (AFD), along with 10 other fire departments, participated in the urban search and rescue team from its inception until the contract expired in 2019. The 11 participating municipalities sought changes to the contract. These changes included modifications to the reimbursement process, duty disability and workers compensation language, and redefining the scope of the team. The team's scope expanded from structural collapse rescue to an all-hazard urban search and rescue team mirroring the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) definition. Each of these changes required legislative action and were successfully implemented when Governor Evers signed Act 104 into law in December 2021. The urban search and rescue team is now referred to as Wisconsin Task Force 1 (WI-TF1).

The AFD provided 18 members to the urban search and rescue team prior to 2019. The AFD desires to commit 20 members to WI-TF1. Each member will be credentialed in advanced rope rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue, water rescue, large area search, and structural collapse (approximately 400 hours). All training backfill is reimbursed, along with costs associated with deployment. Many of our staff already have the training from their affiliation prior to 2019.

The AFD strongly desires to, once again, be part of WI-TF1, as State of Wisconsin deployable assets that can be mobilized and deployed to aid a community in need. The additional skills will not only be used with the task force but also used within the city for all hazard type responses.

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