



## CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS Public Safety Agenda Communication

**Meeting Date:** November 16, 2020

**Prepared By:** Ray Forsythe, City Administrator

**Agenda Item:** Washington Fire Department Contract Update

**Explanation:** The City of Washington contracts with the Washington Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc for Fire Protection Services and for Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services. The current contract has been extended to December 14, 2020. This existing contract was executed November 6, 2017 and outlines the operating and general terms of the contract. There is a separate agreement which outlines the City's obligations for compensation.

The City, represented by the City Administrator, Police Chief, Deputy Chief, Public Works Director and Finance Director have held a few meetings with representatives of the Washington Fire Department which have included: Kevin Byrd, President; Fire Chief, Brett Brown; City of Washington Board Member, Tom Berlett; and At-Large Board Member Greg Longfellow.

Following are the tentative changes in terms that the group supports:

- Increase in the verbal activity reporting to City Council from 4 to 12 times per year.
- Increase Routine Maintenance on Real Estate from \$1,000 to \$1,250
- The allowance of subcontracting fire or ambulance services without express written agreement of the City.
- Shifting the obligation to secure dispatching services to the WFD from the City. This will ensure the WFD representation on the regional Board. A line item will be included for this cost on the financial agreement with the City.
- Continuation of the annual reimbursement for the Fire Truck for FY's 2020-2024
- Term of the Agreement is proposed to be November 1, 2020 – April 30, 2024. This will align the end of the contract with the City and WFD's fiscal years.

There are ongoing negotiations between the Washington Fire Department and other entities which will likely impact the overall service area for paramedic services. Those negotiations are taking place outside of these negotiations however could have an impact on the final contract amount. It is anticipated that these contract negotiations will continue over the next several weeks and a recommended financial commitment will be determined and presented to Council with a final contract at the December 7<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

As indicated above, the City has a separate compensation agreement. Ordinance 3257 was approved by the City Council on 11/6/2017 and has the following payment schedule:

Fire Protection and Fire Prevention: \$477,544.00

- 04/30/2018 \$77,250.00
- 10/31/2018 \$77,250.00
- 04/30/2019 \$79,567.50

- 10/31/2019 \$79,567.50
- 04/30/2020 \$81,954.50
- 10/31/2020 \$81,954.50

Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services: \$1,432,632.00

- 04/30/2018 \$231,750.00
- 10/31/2018 \$231,750.00
- 04/30/2019 \$238,702.00
- 10/31/2019 \$238,702.00
- 04/30/2020 \$245,863.50
- 10/31/2020 \$245,863.50

It is estimated that Fire Protection and Prevention compensation will only increase to accommodate cost of living increases for Fire Personnel. There is a desire and estimated need to increase personnel for Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services to provide a 2<sup>nd</sup> full time ambulance. With the increased population, senior housing and a potential to take on additional service territory, this request has been made. The negotiating teams are working through a fair and equitable method to determine what this increase should be for the City of Washington. In addition, City staff is requesting that language be included in the agreement which provides for a reduction in compensation if grant funds are received during the contract period for personnel costs. These negotiations are ongoing and should be finalized by the December 7<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

**Fiscal Impact:** To be determined with the final contract

**Action Requested:** Discussion on the proposed terms outlined above and indicated in the attached redline version of the contract.

**Attachment:** Draft Agreement