



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Council Session

Item G23

#2010-91 - Approving Letter of Agreement with NEMA

Staff Contact: Troy Hughes

Council Agenda Memo

From: Troy Hughes, Fire Chief

Meeting: March 23, 2010

Subject: Approval of Letter of Agreement with Nebraska
Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

Item #'s: G-23

Presenter(s): Troy Hughes, Fire Chief

Background

The Grand Island Fire Department has served as a regional hazardous materials response team for the State of Nebraska since 1999. During this period of time the Grand Island Fire Department (GIFD) has received approximately \$500,000 in support from NEMA in the form of training and equipment. The department has received nearly all of its hazardous materials response equipment and other response equipment like two fire station air compressors, two sets of hydraulic rescue equipment (Jaws of Life), and lifting air bags capable of lifting a large truck or even a train car. NEMA has allotted \$25,000 to GIFD for 2010 for training and equipment (contingent upon approval of this agreement).

Nearly 30 members of GIFD have received both the initial hazardous materials technician training as well as refresher training from NEMA. The initial training consists of 80 hours of classroom and hands on work. The refresher training is conducted every two years and consists of 40 hours of classroom and hands on work. Funds tied to this agreement have paid for the cost of training and have paid for other related costs like backfill and overtime to cover GIFD members attending the training. GIFD will send five members to NEMA sponsored hazardous materials technician training in April. This is the initial 80 hour class and costs NEMA more than \$40,000 to bring the class to Nebraska. This class is free to us as a result of our existing agreement and will be covered by this updated agreement.

This agreement was updated in 2002 and again in 2007. At the urging of the 10 fire chiefs throughout the state that serve as regional response team leaders, a new agreement was drafted that more clearly defines the roles of both NEMA and the response teams in the event of a call out by the governor. Grand Island Fire Department has yet to be called to duty by NEMA, but has used the equipment and training received through this agreement to mitigate several local hazardous materials spills and releases.

Discussion

If GIFD responders were to be deployed by the Governor, the cost of deployment would be born by the State of Nebraska. The State will pay for any backfill or overtime related to the deployment as well as expendables used during the response. The likelihood of a call out is small, as most incidents are handled with local resources.

This statewide program does provide Grand Island some security in the event of a large incident occurring in our city. We too can depend upon the State to send other designated response teams to assist us in the event of a hazardous materials release or spill that overwhelms our local resources.

The new agreement was reviewed by Chief Hughes and City Attorney Shotkoski

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the letter of agreement with NEMA.

Sample Motion

Motion to approve.

RESOLUTION 2010-91

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2002, the City of Grand Island approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the City Of Grand Island and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, which provided the means for the City to receive funds for specialized training and equipment; and

WHEREAS, under the Memorandum of Understanding city fire personnel participate in a hazardous materials response group and would assist in a hazardous materials emergency statewide; and

WHEREAS, the revised Letter of Agreement also provides for reimbursement costs to the City Of Grand Island for the replacement of equipment and supplies used during deployment of a hazardous materials emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the revised Letter of Agreement between the City Of Grand Island and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency for handling hazardous materials from the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute such Letter of Agreement on behalf of the City Of Grand Island.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, on March 23, 2010.

Margaret Hornady, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
March 19, 2010	☐ City Attorney