

## Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

From: John Winkler, General Manager

Date: May 4, 2020

Re: Cost Share Agreement with Omaha Fire Department for  
Flood Rescue Watercraft

The Omaha Fire Department currently has an active Water Rescue Program that responds to all types of water rescue incidents like ice rescue, flooding and general public safety events on area lakes, rivers, creeks and waterways.

The historic spring flood of 2019 brought to light some limitations with water rescue capabilities in the Omaha Metro Area. Specifically, water rescue crafts that are able to operate in swift water environments, which occur during a flood.

In 2013 the District provided a \$20,000 cost share to the Sarpy County Sheriff's Office for the purchase of a safe and reliable replacement rescue boat for their department. In 2015 the District provided the Omaha Fire Department with a \$28,000 cost share to purchase a Search and Rescue Boat which was ideal for responses on lakes in the District (Chalco, Zorinsky, Walnut Creek, Prairie Queen) and especially the Papillion Creek system. In addition, the District contributes up to \$30,000 per year to the Waterloo Volunteer Fire Department for unreimbursed expenses related to rescue and patrolling operations on area rivers.

Per the attached letter the Omaha Fire Department is requesting a \$23,419 (50%) District cost share to assist in the purchase of two Inflatable Rigid Boats and supporting equipment for their department. The Omaha Fire Department agrees to display the NRD logo on the boat and to properly acknowledge the District's contribution in any private or public communications regarding this watercraft and its operation.

**Therefore, Management recommends that the subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the General Manager be authorized to execute an Inter-local Agreement to provide a fifty (50) percent cost share, not to exceed \$23,419.00, for the purchase of two Inflatable Rigid Boats as to form and with any changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and Legal Counsel..**



City of Omaha  
Jean Stothert, Mayor

**Fire Department**

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**Daniel C. Olsen**  
Fire Chief

February 7, 2020

John Winkler  
General Manager  
Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District  
8901 South 154 Street  
Omaha, NE 68138

**Subject: Water rescue proposal to purchase Inflatable Rigid Boats and supporting equipment**

The 2019 spring flooding brought to light some limitations with the water rescue capabilities of the fire and rescue agencies in the metropolitan area. Most of the issues can be attributed to the lack of water rescue crafts that are able to operate in swift water environments. As the primary response agency in the metropolitan area, the Omaha Fire Department is looking to upgrade its water rescue response capabilities. Our water rescue committee has determined that the purchase of two Inflatable Rigid Boats (IRB), along with our existing water rescue equipment, would significantly upgrade our response capabilities. The IRBs would provide the Omaha Fire Department with the ability to operate in all types of water environments, including flood and swift water.

The purchase of two Inflatable Rigid Boats and supporting equipment will cost a total of \$46,839.11. To help offset the cost of the equipment, the Omaha Fire Department is looking for partners that have a vested interest in these upgrades. As the primary agency for flood and resource management in the metropolitan area, the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resource District would be a perfect partner for this project. The Omaha Fire Department would like to propose a cost share agreement for this equipment. As part of the agreement, the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resource District would provide 50% of the funding for the project and the Omaha Fire Department would facilitate the remaining 50% and also assume the responsibility for the maintenance, upkeep, and operation of the equipment.

The Omaha Fire Department appreciates the positive relationship that we have with the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resource District. This relationship has proved to be beneficial for the citizens and area that we serve.

Please see the provided background information on the Omaha Fire Department's water rescue program, benefits of inflatable rigid boats, cost breakdown for the equipment upgrades, and water rescue statistics.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Daniel C. Olsen  
Fire Chief

JANUARY 2020

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# WATER RESCUE PROPOSAL

OMAHA FIRE DEPARTMENT



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PROPOSED TO  
PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT

# OVERVIEW

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The purchase of two Inflatable Rigid Boats and supporting equipment will cost a total of **\$46,839.11**. To help offset the cost of the equipment, the Omaha Fire Department is looking for partners that have a vested interest in these upgrades. As the primary agency for flood and resource management in the metropolitan area, the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resource District would be a perfect partner for this project. The Omaha Fire Department would like to propose a **50/50 cost share** with the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resource District for the purchase of this equipment. Along with providing 50% of the funds, the Omaha Fire Department will also assume the responsibility for the maintenance, upkeep, and operation of the equipment.

**The Omaha Fire Department appreciates the positive relationship that we have with the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resource District. This relationship has proved to be beneficial for the area and citizens that we serve.**

Please see the provided background information on the Omaha Fire Department's water rescue program, benefits of inflatable rigid boats, cost breakdown for the equipment upgrades, and water rescue statistics.

## WATER RESCUE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Established in 2008. Initially funded solely through grants and private donors.
- Primary water rescue team for Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington Counties.
- Provides mutual aid assistance to Cuming, Cass, Dodge, Burt, and Saunders Counties in Nebraska, and Pottawatomie County in Iowa.
- Routinely assists area law enforcement, FBI, ATF, Nebraska Game and Parks, Coast Guard, and Army Corps of Engineers with crime scene investigations, evidence recovery, vehicle recovery and body recovery.
- Currently maintains 2 boats, 20 foot MAKO Rescue Boat on the Missouri River and a 16 foot Rescue One boat for diving operations.

### WATER RESCUE RESPONSES

2018 • 35 RESPONSES

2019 • 95 RESPONSES

### TOP WATER RESCUE RESPONSE AREAS

• MISSOURI RIVER

• ELKHORN RIVER

• CUNNINGHAM LAKE

• ZORINSKY LAKE

• FLANAGAN LAKE

# BENEFITS OF INFLATABLE RIGID BOATS (IRB)



- Able to operate in all water rescue environments, including flood and swift water.
- Mobile and do not require a boat ramp to access a body of water. The launch flexibility would allow the Omaha Fire Department to access creeks, rivers, and lakes that do not have boat ramps.
- Can transport several victims at one time and are a more stable platform for rescue operations.
- The OFD already has certified swift water technicians and with the addition of IRB's, the department would have a fully qualified swift water team that is able to respond to any water rescue emergency.

## EQUIPMENT UPGRADE COST BREAKDOWN

<u>PRICE</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>ITEMS</u>
\$33,286.00	2	Inflatable Rigid Boats
\$3,200.00	2	Boat Trailers
\$156.80	2	Composite Propellers
\$67.53	2	Paddles (Pair), T-Handle
\$8,945.60	2	30 - 40 hp Motors
\$240.00	2	Motor Service Kit - <i>small service tools</i>
\$32.00	4	Spark Plug - <i>spare</i>
\$14.40	1	Starter Pull Cord & Handle - <i>spare</i>
\$17.60	1	Air Filter - <i>spare</i>
\$14.40	1	Oil Filter - <i>spare</i>
\$26.40	3	Oil Quart - <i>spare</i>
\$158.40	3	Fuel Hose with Primer Bulb - <i>spare</i>
\$111.98	2	Fuel Tank - <i>6 gallon with handle</i>
\$8.00	1	Boat Motor Flush
\$560.00	2	Propeller Guards

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**TOTAL PRICE**                      **\$46,839.11**