

MEMORANDUM

DATE: **October 12, 2018**

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: David Madsen, Fire Marshal

SUBJECT: **2019 Meredith Request**

The Texas Commission on Fire Protection mandates that all structural gear and gear components issued to firefighters be taken out of service after ten years from the manufacture date. It is determined that the thermal protection in the structural gear will deteriorate during that ten years and offer less protection which could result in serious injury or death. In 2009 the fire department purchased new structural gear with a grant from the Meredith Foundation. All of the gear purchased at that time will expire in 2019.

There have been many upgrades to the materials and technology used in manufacturing modern structural gear since 2009. One of the new upgrades includes ways to protect firefighters from cancer causing carcinogens. Firefighters are at a 68% higher risk for cancer because of the materials used in manufacturing household items and the toxins they produce while burning. Modern structural gear uses materials and techniques to limit exposure to these cancer causing carcinogens. We have also adopted new operating procedures for on scene decontamination of firefighters and equipment.

In order to better protect firefighters and be in compliance with the State and NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) the fire department submits a request for funding to replace the structural gear currently in use. The request is for the amount of **\$103,950**. This will include Pants, Coat, Helmet, Boots, Gloves and Hood. Thank you for your consideration.

David Madsen









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