



November 11, 2011

Honorable Mayor  
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council:

***Asbestos Abatement at Fire Station 5***

Narrative: Fire Station 5 was built in 1963 and is about 48 years old at this time. The tile flooring in the fire station is original and includes asbestos tile and asbestos mastic gluing the tile to the concrete subfloor. We have maintained this floor in good condition for all 48 years; however, the floor tile in the office and dorm areas are now starting to pop up, crack and break apart. The problem is expanding beyond our ability to safely maintain the tile flooring in this particular area of the building.

In order to create a safe work environment, the fire department will contract with an asbestos abatement company to remove the entire existing asbestos tile in the bedroom and office area of the building in an approved manner and replace the tile with carpeting. We have received estimates up to \$5,000 to perform this work. Given the age of the tile floor and the current deteriorating conditions, this is a good solution to maintaining the work environment of the fire station. In the future, we have two other tile areas of the building that will need attention.

***Injury Prevention***

Narrative: Approximately two years ago the Fire Chief was reviewing worker compensation claims for duty-incurred injuries on the fire department. We noted that a significant number of duty-incurred injuries resulting in worker compensation claims over the last eight years were the direct result of lifting injuries associated with our Paramedic Rescue Squads. Specifically, we noticed there were over \$469,000 in CVMIC Worker Compensation claims.

It is always our goal to reduce duty-incurred injuries which reduces costs to the City. It is an unfortunate reality in today's society that our patients are becoming heavier and it is not unusual that we are required to deal with patients weighing more than 300 pounds. This, combined with the weight of our current rescue squad gurneys, means our paramedics and firefighters are lifting over 400 pounds from a lower position to the height of the rescue squad for patient loading. Our current gurneys weigh approximately 78 pounds, plus our medical equipment weights another 20 to 35 pounds, depending on what is in use.

It is clear to us many of the lifting injuries are back and muscular injuries. We constantly work with our personnel on safe lifting practices; however, even with safe lifting practices, the weight is a significant factor in those injuries. It is our intention to reduce future Worker Compensation injuries, due to lifting injuries, through the acquisition of this Power Cot (gurney). While this will not completely resolve all lifting injuries due to the nature of our work, we certainly should be able to achieve significant savings in Worker Compensation claims related to lifting injuries.

This request is to transfer \$15,000 from the 2011 account 101.300.5180 Longevity to our Equipment Account 101.300.5770. When the 2011 budget was created and approved in late 2010, we had to budget the longevity account as if nobody would be retiring in 2011. It is a practice that is conservative since retirements in the fire department have been minimal in recent years. Since January of 2011, there have been a number of retirements spread out over the year resulting in a surplus in the account. As of November 11<sup>th</sup>, the balance in the account is \$44,346, and we project we will expend \$11,360 through the end of 2011, leaving a balance of \$32,986 before the \$15,000 for the power cot.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen, Fire Chief