



## **REQUEST FOR ACTION**

### **Fire Protection Agreement**

**MEETING DATE:**

**May 19, 2025**

**ORIGINATING DEPT:**

**City Administration**

**AGENDA SECTION:**

**Consent Agenda**

**PRESENTER:**

**Ryan Yetzer**

### **Action Requested:**

Approving and authorizing signature of the Fire Service Contract between the City of Rochester and Cascade, Haverhill, Marion, and Rochester Townships to provide fire protection services.

### **Report Narrative:**

Since 2005, the City of Rochester and the neighboring townships of Cascade, Haverhill, Marion, and Rochester have maintained a formal agreement for the Rochester Fire Department to provide fire protection services, with informal arrangements in place for more than a decade prior. This long-standing shared service model exemplifies how regional partnership and cooperation can lead to more fiscally sustainable and efficient delivery of essential government services.

The proposed agreement under consideration, approved by all four partnering townships, would cover the period from 2026 through 2035. It closely mirrors the structure of previous agreements, with several thoughtful updates intended to clarify expectations and ensure long-term viability. Key changes include:

- General language clean-up and improved consistency in terminology
- Clearer articulation of the services provided by the Rochester Fire Department to partnering townships
- An adjustment to the annual compensation model, increasing the year-over-year rate from 4.0% to 4.5%
- New language encouraging proactive coordination and communication around development decisions that could impact the cost of providing fire protection services

The final point above, enhanced coordination on development in an effort to maintain the cost of the fire protection service, has generated the most discussion throughout the update process. As Council has noted, growth and development decisions made by either the City or the townships can directly impact the cost or ability to effectively provide fire service under this agreement. The shared goal has been to incorporate language that promotes transparency, collaboration, and flexibility in responding to that impact.

In response, and through collaborative engagement with the townships, we have integrated the following provisions:

- **Section 1 (“Fire Protection – Service Area”)** now includes language authorizing the Rochester Fire Department to review and provide comments on township development applications. This allows our Fire Administration team to proactively provide comments on projects that may significantly affect service delivery or drive up costs.

- **Section 10 (“Termination and Renegotiation”)** has been revised to explicitly state that either party may terminate the agreement for any reason, including rising fire service costs due to development. This section also outlines a clear process for initiating renegotiation, providing a built-in mechanism to adapt the agreement if needed.

Together, these updates directly respond to Council’s priorities and address long-standing concerns around coordination and cost management. Just as importantly, they reflect a renewed spirit of mutual understanding between the City and its township partners, an acknowledgment that shared services require shared accountability and ongoing dialogue.

Attached, please find the signed contracts from each of the four partnering Townships. The City will sign all four contracts individually.

### **Priorities & Foundational Principles:**

Public Safety

Economic Vibrancy & Growth Management

### **Policy Considerations & DEI Impact:**

Approval of this agreement will enter the City into a contract with neighboring townships of Cascade, Haverhill, Marion, and Rochester from 2026-2035.

### **Prior Legislative Actions & Community Engagement:**

November 25, 2024: City Council Study Session

February 24, 2025: City Council Study Session

### **Fiscal & Resource Impact:**

The City receives yearly compensation for the partnering Townships as a result of this agreement. This agreement includes a year over year 4.5% increase in compensation paid to the City by each township.

### **Alternative Action(s):**

No alternative actions are suggested at this time.

### **Prepared By:**

Ryan Yetzer

### **Attachments:**

[Contract - Marion Signed Fire Contract](#)

[Contract - Haverhill Signed Fire Contract](#)

[Contract - Cascade Signed Fire Contract](#)

[Contract- Rochester Signed Fire Contract.pdf](#)