

Proposal to Obtain Fire Prevention Equipment / Props

Issue

Our department has been pursuing technical rescue certifications for the past six (6) years. We have now made it through all disciplines and have been certified upon each step to the level requested. We have 2 more disciplines to look at in the future. These are Structural Collapse Technician and Swift Water Technician but must be taken later at a different facility.

We are now able to handle rope, confined space, trench, swift water up to ops, vehicle and machinery and structural collapse up to ops.

As discussed we are ready to purchase the next round of equipment needed to accomplish the rescues we encounter with these. We are looking to purchase the trench and confined space equipment.

Proposal

Purchase an equipment cache to allow for rescue, continued training and member certification

Approval is being sought for the purchase of an equipment cache to ensure we have the necessary items to perform rescues if called upon to do so in our territory. We have individuals that are trained through trench and confined space technician and able to complete these rescues per state mandates. These individuals will also be able, upon completing the train the trainer course as well, to train other members of Yorktown Fire Department as we get new members or others want to learn the discipline.

The equipment requested will provide us with the equipment for the following:

- Trench Rescue through Operations and Technician
- Confined Space Rescue through Operations and Technician

Rationale

After members of our department attended rope rescue technician classes it is necessary to keep practicing the skillset learned over and over to stay proficient. Technical rescue certifications are a perishable skillset which means if they are not trained on they will diminish over time. By performing this training in house other members of the department can be exposed to it as well. Down the road the trainer courses will allow us to certify our own department membership on these skills as well.

Special Operation Rescues and Technical Rescue Operations both require specialized tools and equipment to perform those tasks safely and effectively. We absolutely do not want to lose the information and skills that we have acquired either. These skills revolve around equipment and being able to keep our hands on and familiar with that equipment. Our department is deficient on equipment to effectively mitigate an emergency relating to ropes, swift water or machinery. Along with that we are lacking on equipment to effectively train in these disciplines to sharpen our skills.

Cost

Not to exceed \$50,000 – the exact equipment cache is still being laid out but will include CSR breathing apparatus, air carts, lines, communications, harnesses, victim removal devices and another other necessary equipment to handle a rescue. These will also include premade/fabricated pieces of materials made out of wood to ensure efficient operations.

Summary

The included items will not only benefit the fire department and provide them with the tools to further enhance our technical rescue abilities but it will benefit the community we serve as well. By acquiring the equipment, it will allow us to become proficient in those skills and disciplines to then continue moving forward. Our department does feel that these disciplines are necessary to serve the community effectively while having the knowledge to keep our firefighters safe.

As we work through each discipline and realize that equipment is most valuable and necessary to accomplish the tasks we will bring those items to the board for approval.

The disciplines that we will need to come back with the equipment list for next year will be in regards to the following disciplines

- Swift Water Technician – no additional equipment should be needed, but training must take place in South Bend at a facility designed for this training
- Structural Collapse Operations