

Johnson County
Ambulance District
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Date: June 26, 2025
To: Board of Directors
Subject: Recommendation for Extrication Gear Purchase

Extrication Gear Purchase

This proposal seeks board approval for the purchase of 10 sets of specialized FireDex extrication gear to equip all Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) personnel with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). This gear is essential for ensuring the safety and operational effectiveness of our responders, and it meets the rigorous demands of modern USAR operations.

Gear Specifications

The FireDex extrication gear is purpose-built for USAR environments and provides comprehensive protection in high-risk scenarios. Key features include:

- **Cut and Abrasion Resistance:** Constructed with durable, heavy-duty materials to shield personnel from sharp objects and rough surfaces encountered during rescue operations.
- **Flash Fire Protection:** Offers limited flame resistance to reduce the risk of thermal injuries during flash fire exposures.
- **Bloodborne Pathogen Barrier:** Integrated barrier layer safeguards against exposure to blood and other infectious materials, enhancing responder safety.
- **High-Visibility Striping:** Provides improved visibility during low-light operations or in areas with heavy debris.
- **Ergonomic Fit:** Articulated design enhances mobility, comfort, and endurance, especially during extended incidents.

Funding Source

The purchase will be funded through the JCAD operational PPE budget. While current budgeted funds are insufficient to cover the full cost, we have secured provisional approval for a grant from Hero Fund USA totaling \$11,102. This funding is anticipated by year-end 2025, contingent upon the successful completion of the Hero Fund USA's fundraising efforts.

Cost Comparison

Vendor	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Heiman Fire Equipment	10	\$2,627	\$26,270
Banner Fire Equipment	10	\$2,467	\$24,670

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Estimated Net Cost: \$15,168

Recommendation

I recommend proceeding with the purchase of 10 sets of FireDex USAR gear from Heiman Fire Equipment in the amount of \$26,270. While this vendor's quote is slightly higher than the alternative, Heiman offers added value through:

- Exceptional customer service and responsiveness
- Proven reliability in prior transactions
- On-site sizing services to ensure proper fit for each team member, reducing potential return or sizing issues

The additional service and support provided by Heiman Fire Equipment justify the slightly higher investment and will help ensure a smooth and efficient procurement process.