



**Item:** Resolution 10070, a Resolution by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, Revising the Fee Schedule for Great Falls Fire Rescue (GFFR) and Superseding Resolution 9946

**From:** Randall E. McCamley, Fire Chief

**Initiated By:** Randall E. McCamley, Fire Chief

**Presented By:** Randall E. McCamley, Fire Chief

**Action Requested:** Conduct a public hearing and consider adoption of Resolution 10070.

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**Public Hearing:**

1. Mayor conducts public hearing, calling three times each for proponents and opponents.
2. Mayor closes public hearing and asks the will of the Commission.

**Suggested Motion:**

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission (adopt/deny) Resolution 10070.”

2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, and calls for the vote.

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**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the City Commission conduct a public hearing and adopt Resolution 10070, a Resolution by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, Revising the Fee Schedule for Great Falls Fire Rescue (GFFR) and Superseding Resolution 9946.

**Background:** Great Falls Fire Rescue has a fee schedule for special services, facilities, and equipment that would be used during conditions or circumstances beyond the department's typical emergency responses. An example is the GFFR Training Center that is available for training and meetings for both private and public organizations. Several times a year, Montana State University Fire Services Training School rents the entire training facility to conduct firefighter academies. If the City could not bill for the training center's use, we could not afford to make facility improvements and keep up with facility maintenance and repairs.

Additionally, the City has billed for all actions taken at a Hazardous Materials (HazMat) emergency. Federal environmental law, specifically Title III Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, and the “Community Right to Know and Emergency Response” and the corresponding Montana State statutes authorize billing for actions taken to protect the community and environment from chemical spills or releases.

Also, private and public organizations have requested GFFR apparatus and staff provide emergency support and standby beyond that of daily operations. In order to maintain services to the community while providing the service requested, off duty firefighters are hired back and reserve apparatus are placed into service. It is appropriate for the City to recover the costs associated with the “extra” level of service provided to the incident or activity.

There have been no fee adjustments since October 2011. However, the cost for manpower and apparatus has increased steadily with each passing year. An adjustment is long overdue and the nominal increase would enable the department to recover the cost for services.

These fee increases have been based on comparing other similar Montana city fees, and the department’s costs associated with the service provided.

**Fiscal Impact:** The revenue generated from the GFFR fee schedule is approximately \$5000 to \$7000 annually.

#### Fee Methodology

The fee schedule increases are based on the cost to the City. They are determined by analyzing apparatus, staff, and resources costs. For example, apparatus hours of service and depreciation are divided by the hourly cost of operation. Also, large fire engine and aerial apparatus hourly rates paid by the US Forest Service and Montana DNRC were compared with GFFR’s hourly rates.

All employee hourly rates were based the City’s actual cost per man-hour. Hourly rate + benefits = 1 man-hour.

**Alternatives:** The City Commission could deny adoption of Resolution 10070, or request amendments to the fee schedule

**Attachments:** Resolution 10070

**RESOLUTION NO. 10070**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, REVISING THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR GREAT FALLS FIRE RESCUE (GFFR) AND SUPERSEDING RESOLUTION 9946**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Falls City Commission adopted Resolution No. 9946 on October 18, 2011, setting forth fees for services provided by Great Falls Fire Rescue (GFFR); and

**WHEREAS**, since 2011 the costs have increased to provide these services; and

**WHEREAS**, providing these ancillary services or special circumstances are beyond the scope of those services covered by typical emergency work; and

**WHEREAS**, GFFR has developed a procedure allowing a means to appropriately and fairly invoice consumers for the services listed in the GFFR fee schedule.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, that:**

- 1) Resolution 9946 is superseded by these terms.
- 2) Great Falls Fire Rescue service fees are set forth as follows:

**- - Great Falls Fire Rescue (GFFR) Fee Schedule - -**

**REPORTS:**

Incident Reports	\$11.00
Fire Investigation Report & Photos – BY SUBPOENA ONLY	\$100
Single page copies	\$0.25/page

**FACILITIES (daily rates):**

Training Center classroom ( <i>includes audio/visual equip</i> )	\$110
Training Center facility ( <i>includes Tower, Roof/Burn Props</i> )*	\$260
<i>*Note: Burn prop requires GFFR supervision</i>	

**APPARATUS (hourly rates – personnel costs not included):**

1 ALS Rescue Engine	\$195
1 Fire Engine	\$171
1 Aerial Apparatus 100 foot Pierce Platform	\$305
1 Command Vehicle	\$110
1 Rescue Vehicle	\$110
1 Hazmat Trailer w/equip	\$142
Hazmat supplies/tools	cost + 20%

**PERSONNEL** (regular hourly rates at **cost to City**):

Current

1 Management	Current salary plus benefits
1 Command Officer	Current salary plus benefits
1 Company Officer	Current salary plus benefits
1 Firefighter	Current salary plus benefits

*\*Overtime hours will be calculated at the rate of 1.5 times regular rate*

**EQUIPMENT:**

Ladder testing (per ladder)	\$70
Hose repair (per length)	\$17
Repair parts	cost + 20%

**CASCADE SYSTEM – BREATHING AIR:**

30 / 60 min bottle filling	\$22
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*Note: All rates are invoiced at a minimum of 1 hour and rounded to the nearest half hour.*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS** that these fees shall become effective upon adoption, subject to the limitations set forth herein. Great Falls Fire Rescue shall post the fee schedule on the GFFR website.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, this 15 day of April, 2014.

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Michael J. Winters, Mayor

Attest:

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Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(SEAL OF CITY)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

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Sara R. Sexe, City Attorney