



Marshalltown Fire Department

909 S. 2nd Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158
marshalltown-ia.gov
641.754.5751 (Office)
641.754-5722 (Fax)

MEMO

To: Mayor, City Council, and City Administrator

From: David Rierson – Fire Chief

Cc:

Date: 01/24/22

Re: Agreement for Fire Code Inspection Services

Background

The Fire Department is responsible for the enforcement of the City Fire Code through on-site inspections and plan reviews. Prior to and after my appointment as Fire Chief, the department has been unable to complete annual fire inspections of all businesses and commercial occupancies. The focus the past few years has been inspecting those businesses that require an operational permit, per the fire code, which allows the business to function. They include, but not limited to, the following occupancies:

- Assembly
- Amusement buildings
- Aviation facilities
- Carnivals & fairs
- Cutting & welding
- Dry cleaning
- Explosives
- Fumigation & Insecticidal
- Hazardous materials
- Lumber yards
- LP gas
- Motor fuel dispensing
- Repair garages
- Flammable liquid storage

Currently, the Fire Marshal is responsible for conducting inspections, consulting with business owners & contractors, and reviewing architectural, sprinkler, and fire alarm system plans. This is more than one person can handle. Our fire crews are assigned building inspections monthly, however, with a 14% increase in calls for service their ability to complete inspections is sporadic. In addition, COVID closed some businesses in town and were not available for inspection.

Recommendation

We are recommending entering into an agreement with Iowa Inspections INC. to assist with fire code compliance inspections. Initially the inspections would be focused on occupancies that do not require an operational permit, which includes primarily office buildings. If approved, the department will negotiate a contract and fee schedule.

Budget Impact

The majority of expenses incurred will be covered by the fee schedule. As proposed, inspection services would be based on a per square foot basis.