



City of Muscatine

ITEM NUMBER 2026-0028

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

DATE: 1/20/2026

STAFF

Mike Hartman, Fire Chief

SUBJECT

Request to Approve a Memorandum of Understanding Between the Muscatine Fire Department and Muscatine County Emergency Management Commission for Shared Boat Resource

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Presented for City Council's consideration is a request to enter into a Memo of Understanding (MOU) that will allow Fire Department members to operate Muscatine Search and Rescue equipment.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the MOU is approved

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The Muscatine Fire Department (MFD) provides emergency water and ice rescue to areas within City Limits and to the Mississippi River pool accessed by the Muscatine Riverfront. Muscatine Search and Rescue is an organization that provides similar services throughout the County. Search and Rescue has some resources that, if MFD had training and approval to operate, could be better utilized and provide a quicker response of appropriate equipment for these types of rescues. The two agencies work well together, and there has been agreement to allow certain MFD members the ability to utilize Search and Rescue equipment. This MOU allows for that if MFD has properly trained individuals available. This MOU has been approved by the Muscatine EMA Commission.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no anticipated economic impact.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2885_001

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
between
Muscatine County Emergency Management Commission
and
Muscatine Fire Department
(AGENCY)
regarding
Shared Boat Resource

I. Introduction

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by the Muscatine County Emergency Management Commission (MCEMA) and Muscatine Fire Department (MFD). In the mutual best interest of counties and municipalities to coordinate their emergency, medical and search/rescue efforts and then to share resources available through contribution of personnel and/or contribution of property/assets belonging to the various entities involved for these stated purposes.

This MOU addresses the current challenge of a shared boat resource for the Muscatine Fire Department. To ensure that the public safety community reaches optimal utilization during a water emergency, this agreement will define a water resource from the Muscatine County Emergency Management Commission (MCEMA) that will be shared with the Muscatine Fire Department (MFD).

II. Purpose

In the course of agencies' duties being performed, it may become necessary for employees and volunteers to act outside their normal jurisdiction and it may be advantageous of agencies to share resources on request-for-assistance basis, therefore this agreement outlines that request.

Specifically, Muscatine County Emergency Management Commission (MCEMA) and Muscatine Fire Department (MFD) agree to the following obligations per this agreement.

Obligations of MCEMA

MCEMA agrees to make available one boat (named Marine 3) in the Search and Rescue Garage for MFD to utilize during a ***water emergency***.

MCEMA will provide insurance for the boat.

MCEMA will maintain the boat and keep it operational.

MCEMA will provide MFD with access to the Search and Rescue Garage for access to boat.

MCEMA will provide training to MFD personnel on boat operations.

Obligations of MFD

MFD will be sure that only trained personnel operate the boat.

MFD will be sure that boat is returned in working order with gas tank filled.

MFD will be responsible for any damage and/or repairs to boat due to negligence or employee misconduct.

MFD will provide own truck for transportation of boat and trailer.

III. Definitions

“Agreement” means this MOU between Muscatine County Emergency Management Commission and Muscatine Fire Department setting forth the services provided as well as the terms and conditions under which the services are provided and includes its exhibits, attachments, and any renewals or attachments.

“Water Emergency” means an emergency water rescue as coded by Dispatch.

IV. Policy

The parties hereto recognize that cooperation is an essential factor in responding to and completing water and ice rescue incidents on the Mississippi River and that the interchange of personnel between and among governmental agencies at the same or different levels of government is a significant factor in achieving such cooperation.

V. Financial Procedures

Muscatine County Emergency Management (MCEMA) shall bear all financial responsibilities for the boat except: fuel when used by MFD and any damage and/or repairs needed to negligence or employee misconduct

VI. Maintenance

Both parties understand that maintenance will be required on an ongoing basis. Muscatine Emergency Management Commission shall assume the cost of all operation, maintenance and repairs except: fuel and any damage and/or repairs needed to negligence or employee misconduct.

VII. Governance

Muscatine Fire Department (MFD) and Muscatine County Emergency Management (MCEMA) will be responsible for the enforcement of capabilities agreed to in this MOU and may terminate this agreement at any time.

VIII. Updates to the MOU

This agreement may be revised or amended at any time by mutual agreement of all parties and the governance body. Once the language of the MOU is modified Muscatine County Emergency Management will provide all parties of the MOU with written notification of the change and reissue the modified MOU.

IX. Duration

This agreement shall remain in effect from the latest date written below until such time as either party, upon 30 days prior, provides written notice to the other party requesting the agreement’s cancellation (see “Termination” below). This agreement can be renewed prior to its expiration upon written agreement of the parties.

X. Termination

Either party may terminate this agreement by giving 30 days advanced written notice to the other party.

XI. Local Considerations

This agreement and the rights and obligations of the parties hereto shall be governed by, and construed according to, the laws of the State of Iowa and the requirements of Muscatine County Emergency Management Commission and Muscatine Fire Department (MFD).

XII. Signatures

(Signature) Susie Garrett

(Date) 1-26-26

Susie Garrett
Chair – Muscatine County Emergency Management Commission

(Signature) Dr. Brad Bark

(Date) 1-20-26

Dr. Brad Bark
Mayor – City of Muscatine