



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Fire

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: August 4, 2025

Re: Memorandum of Understanding to establish a fire service mutual aid agreement with Centralia Fire Department.

Executive Summary

Staff requests authorization for the City Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Centralia Fire Department to establish fire service mutual aid guidelines of cooperation between the City of Columbia Fire Department and the City of Centralia Fire Department.

Discussion

The Columbia Fire Department frequently exchanges services with agencies in the region when the need arises due to a significant emergency(s). The State of Missouri permits mutual aid between agencies to protect life and property in disasters, and the agencies wish to ensure the responsibilities of both agencies are well-defined and supported under state statute and agency doctrine. This MOU defines the mutually agreed-upon terms to ensure an agreement authorizing the practice of personnel and physical resources when lives are at risk by both agencies and having a basic understanding of how they are utilized prior to an incident occurring.

The agreement establishes that there will be no requirement to reimburse the other party during a request for mutual aid. The agreement waives claims against each other party for damages or compensation for any loss, damage, personnel injury, death, or any other matter occurring as a consequence of performance. The agreement establishes that management is standardized in accordance with Federal NIMS guidelines, and operational control of personnel will remain with the responding party.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None

Long-Term Impact: None

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Safe Community, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Inter-Governmental Cooperation, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary



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Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

Suggested Council Action

Approve and authorize the City Manager to sign the MOU.