



Fire Department

**Mark Rohlfing**  
Chief

**Gerard Washington**  
Assistant Chief  
**Daniel Lipski**  
Assistant Chief  
**Michael Romas**  
Assistant Chief

February 28, 2013

Honorable Members of the  
Public Safety Committee  
City Hall – Room 205  
Milwaukee, WI 53203

Re: Common Council File 121603

Dear Committee Members:

I respectfully request the 2013 Positions Ordinance be amended to increase the position and budgetary authority for an additional Inventory Control Assistant III as the Milwaukee Fire Department (MFD) would like to create an in-house gear testing, repair, and maintenance center.

The 2013 Positions Ordinance would need to be amended as follows:

| <u>Caption/Position Title</u>               | <u>Add</u> |
|---|------------|
| FIRE DEPARTMENT                             |            |
| EMS/TRAINING/EDUCATION BUREAU DECISION UNIT |            |
| <u>Training Division</u>                    |            |
| Inventory Control Assistant III             | 1 position |

The MFD is currently budgeting \$150,000 and spending between \$150,000 to \$250,000 annually to a contractor to test and repair our fire turnout gear to meet NFPA standards. Further, we have been notified that the current vendor under contract is increasing their repair prices by 5% in 2013. We have \$211,071 expenditure authority remaining on that three-year contract, which expires August 27, 2013.

The cost for an in-house repair center will require a one-time equipment expenditure of between \$75,000 and \$100,000. The repair center would be located in the lower level of Fire Station 36, 4060 North 27<sup>th</sup> Street. The annual equipment maintenance, materials, and consumable expenditures will be minimal (i.e., the cost of thread and cloth, detergents, etc.). Labor will be the job responsibility of an additional position on the department, an Inventory Control Assistant III, salary range 6HN, \$36,092.06 - \$40,836.38.

It is anticipated that creating an in-house testing/repair/maintenance center will save property taxpayers \$100,000 to \$150,000 per year. I am hopeful that, with your support, the in-house repair center can be operational before August 27, 2013.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly (x8947) with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

  
MARK ROHLFING  
Chief

MR/ejs/cf