

Hiawatha Seeking Additional Funding for Fire Protection

(KNZA)-The city of Hiawatha is seeking additional funding from three entities for fire protection. The city commission Monday evening reviewed a letter that will be sent to Hiawatha Township, Padonia Township and the Sac and Fox Tribe requesting a funding increase to help cover the cost of a new pumper truck for the fire department

The fire department is seeking to replace it's 1974 truck, which officials say is severely outdated and beyond repair. The cost for a new or late model unit has been placed at around \$200,000 to \$250,000.

The city plans to replace the truck with proceeds from a USDA Rural Development grant and loan, with the truck to be paid off over a ten year period.

The commission is requesting that Hiawatha Township's annual funding amount be increased 25-hundred dollars to \$10,500; Padonia Township's amount be increased two-thousand dollars to \$5,000; and the Sac and Fox Tribe's amount one-thousand dollars to \$6,000

The commission is seeking a five year contract with the three entities.

Mayor Crosby Gernon says he believes the formation of a fire district would be the best solution. However, a fire district can only be created by either a county or a township under state statute. The commission is inviting representatives from the three entities to attend the commission's May 20th meeting.

Many Signals Communications