



City of
Maple Grove
Fire Department

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To: Maple Grove Mayor and Council

From: Tim Bush – Fire Chief

Date: 07-29-2022

Subject: Council Work Session for Fence Consortium JPA Discussion

In 2021, a working group formed to study options and make recommendations for ways to protect buildings associated with a police department as quickly as possible after a no-notice critical incident. This group determined that deployment of anti-scale fencing could be a tool used to de-escalate tensions during critical events.

At present, there is no ready supply of anti-scale fencing in Minnesota. Sourcing and deploying anti-scale fencing can be expected to take 72-96 hours based on availability and the need to ship it from outside of Minnesota. In the meantime, alternate forms of barriers may need to be used.

The Fence Consortium is a multi-agency joint powers agreement (JPA) potentially involving fifty or more public safety agencies throughout the seven-county metro. The JPA is intended to obtain, manage, and deploy when needed, anti-scale fence to consortium members, while also sharing costs.

As of June 15, 2022, joining the Fence Consortium has been approved by ten metro cities, with a September 2, deadline for becoming an initial member. The deadline is intended to prevent agencies from waiting to join until after they have a critical incident.

Currently, the projected annual cost to Maple Grove is \$10,024 based on all fifty agencies joining the consortium. Annual cost could rise to ~\$35,000 per member without additional cities joining Maple Grove and the current ten cities who have already approved the JPA.

It is also important to recognize that fence is not available for planned protests, protecting courthouses during trials, and not for festivals or other municipal events. The current plan is based on enough fence to protect the largest member police department, with the majority of facilities requiring less.

JPA members are expected to share on-going costs based on their percentage of the actual cost. However, individual agencies are responsible for deployment costs, any monthly costs incurred during actual use of the fence, and freight for deployment and recovery.

It should be noted that fence may not be available for a Maple Grove critical incident, if it is already deployed to another agency. The City of Maple Grove should weigh the advantages of joining the Fence Consortium against potential issues created in staffing, availability, and ongoing costs.

- Option – Join the Fence Consortium JPA
- Option – Obtain anti-scale fence outside of JPA
- Option – Explore other ways to manage and provide safe space for protestors

City staff is planning an August 1st council work session to discuss the city joining the consortium.

Attachment A – Fence Consortium Joint Powers Agreement