



To: Government Affairs Committee

From: Barbara J. Kadrach, Fire Chief

Date: April 9th, 2026

Subject: Memorandum of Understanding for Mutual Aid and Fire Suppression Services with the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

A. Issue

The Milwaukee County Fire Chiefs have been asked to review, sign, and adopt a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). While career fire departments in Milwaukee County rarely require additional resources for brush and wildland fires beyond existing Shared Services agreements, this MOU provides benefits for future partnerships and emergency resource allocation.

Under this agreement, the DNR requests notification and inclusion in any third-alarm wildland fire within our jurisdiction. A DNR representative would respond to the scene and integrate into the incident command structure to assist with securing additional suppression resources.

The DNR can provide specialized assets, including brush trucks, ATVs, UTVs, and backpack water extinguishers. The DNR will also assign a liaison to incident command and may reimburse fire suppression activities occurring on State-owned land, including the Forest Exploration Center off Swan Boulevard.

Additionally, the DNR offers grant funding of up to \$10,000 for MOU partners and will provide on-site training opportunities for firefighters. Funding updates to the agreement will be automatic, and the MOU will not require re-execution for such changes.

B. Background / Options

The Fire Department supports this MOU as it expands access to resources, training, reimbursement opportunities, and grant funding not currently available, while supporting services we already provide.

C. Strategic Plan (Area of Focus)

Public Safety





D. Fiscal Impact

Approval of this agreement will result in no additional costs. It will allow the Fire Department to seek reimbursement from the DNR for wildland fire suppression activities on State-owned land. Additionally, the MOU provides access to specialized expertise and equipment from the State DNR wildland firefighting team.

E. Recommendation

Fire Department staff recommends approval of the Memorandum of Understanding for Mutual Aid and Fire Suppression Services with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

