



**Item:** Agreement with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and City of Great Falls allowing U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to use the Great Falls Fire Rescue Training Facility

**From:** Randall E. McCamley, Fire Chief

**Initiated By:** Dirk M. Johnson, Deputy Asst. Chief

**Presented By:** Randall E. McCamley, Fire Chief

**Action Requested:** Authorize the City Manager to sign the Cooperative Agreement with CBP

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**Suggested Motion:**

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move the City Commission (authorize/not authorize) the City Manager to sign the Cooperative Agreement with the CBP to allow them to use the City Fire Training Facility.”

2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, and calls for the vote.

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**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends the City Commissioners authorize the City manager to sign the cooperative agreement with CBP to use the GFFR training facility. There is little if any impact to the City resulting from the use of this facility by CBP. As a federal entity they bear the full responsibility for insurance and liability during training operations. The contract clearly states this fact by indemnifying the City. Also, according to the agreement the scope of work is limited to quick repelling when the CBP helicopter is unavailable due to repairs or other conditions.

**Background:**

Significant Impacts: This agreement allows the staff from CBP stationed at the Airport to use the City of Great Falls Fire Training Facility to repel from the 5 story tower. This agreement determines the conditions and terms of the use of this facility.

Citizen Participation: The CBP is federally funded paramilitary operation who protects the U.S. Borders in the War on Terrorism. There is no civilian involvement.

Workload Impacts: Deputy Asst. Chief Dirk Johnson has been working with CBP on this project. Once the agreement is signed the work will be to coordinate the use of the facility.

Purpose: This is a cooperative agreement that will help maintain the skills needed to defend our borders. On several occasions the CBP helicopter has been requested to provide air support to the City at no charge.

Project Work Scope: There have been some minor alterations of the training tower to provide a secure anchor point. This work shall be paid for by CBP and accomplished by local contractors. CBP will schedule the use of the facility with Deputy Asst. Chief Johnson.

Conclusion: Since the arrival of the CBP, they have been very cooperative and have provided help when asked. This small endeavor demonstrates that excellent rapport and working relationships that have developed over the years. There is little to no impact to the City or to current or future training operations being conducted at the training center.

**Concurrences:** Reviewed and approved by the City Attorney James Santoro

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Alternatives:** Deny the cooperative agreement

**Attachments/Exhibits:** Copy of Agreement