



# RAPID CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

*Prepare, Prevent, Protect*



To: Rapid City Council  
From: Mike Maltaverne, Fire Chief  
Subject: Proposed Changes to Travel Policy  
Date: October 1, 2014

In reference to the proposed changes to the City of Rapid City's travel policy, I would offer support of these changes and ask for approval. These changes positively affect us in many ways.

The Fire Department has a contract with the State of South Dakota Dept. of Agriculture to dispatch firefighters and equipment to large wildfires locally, regionally and nationally. The expenses such as gas, lodging, meals etc. are coded as "travel". Costs associated with these deployments are reimbursed to the City by the hosting agency and supplemented back into the Fire Department's budget. In addition, our ambulances conduct cross country transfers from one hospital to another. This is another example of associated costs being coded as travel that are later reimbursed. This policy allows us to manage these transfers easier.

To fulfill our mission, training is not just a want but a requirement and accounts for a great deal of our day to day operations. Training is the vehicle that assures our constant state of organizational readiness. This policy impacts our ability to train our firefighters and administer our budget. The proposed policy changes allow me to manage our resources and personnel more effectively and efficiently. With the uncertainty of demands placed on our services, flexibility is paramount. I applaud the Finance Office for reviewing this policy and bringing forward these proposed changes.

Mike Maltaverne

Fire Chief-Rapid City Fire Department