



CITY COUNCIL Study Session

April 14, 2025

6:00 PM, Council Chambers - 111 E. Maple Ave.

To view a Council meeting agenda, visit <https://independencemo.portal.civicclerk.com/> and select 'Most Recent Council Agenda'.

COUNCIL SPONSORED ITEMS

1. A Resolution authorizing reward money for the information leading to the resolution of specific unsolved cases and funding DNA testing for cases as determined by the City Manager. *(Requested by Councilmember Brice Stewart)*
2. A Resolution directing the City Manager to commit the City of Independence to participation in "Legacy Project: TC3" as part of the 2026 Parade of Hearts Program. *(Requested by Councilmember Heather Wiley).*

CITIZEN REQUESTS

1. Citizen Requests - Per Council Rules, Sec. 6.4 only "Council Sponsored Items" are eligible

PRESENTATIONS

1. Criteria-Based Dispatch - Independence Fire Department
2. Emergency Preparedness

INFORMATION ONLY

1. Boards and Commissions Report
2. **Please Note:** In accordance with RSMo. 610.021, the City Council may convene in an Executive Session during or after the meeting, in the Council Chambers and move to Conference Room D for the closed meeting, on matters of litigation, legal action,

and/or attorney client communications, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(1), on matters of personnel, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(3) and personnel records, as permitted by 610.021(13), on matters of contracts, as permitted by 610.021(12), on matters of real estate, as permitted by 610.021(2) and/or matters of labor negotiations, as permitted by 610.021(9).

City of Independence

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Agenda Title:

A Resolution authorizing reward money for the information leading to the resolution of specific unsolved cases and funding DNA testing for cases as determined by the City Manager.

(Requested by Councilmember Brice Stewart)

Recommendations:

Staff recommends approval of the resolution as requested by Councilmember Brice Stewart.

Background:

This resolution, proposed by Councilmember Stewart, is designed to support the investigation of long-unsolved homicide cases in Independence, Missouri. The City Council is seeking to enhance law enforcement efforts by allocating funds for two key initiatives:

- **Reward Money:** The resolution authorizes reward money for information that leads to the resolution of specific cold cases, with the intent to stimulate public assistance and generate new investigative leads.
- **DNA Testing Funding:** It also provides for funding DNA testing in unsolved cases, leveraging modern forensic technology to advance investigations.

The initiative focuses on over 30 unsolved homicide cases dating back to 1971, with a particular emphasis on those cases where additional leads or modern forensic analysis could prove pivotal. The City Manager is granted the authority to adjust the list of eligible cases if the originally designated cases no longer yield sufficient leads. The Police Department will update its website with detailed case profiles and instructions for submitting tips, and will issue a press release to raise public awareness upon the resolution's passage.

The resolution will be discussed in the April 14 study session and, if consensus is reached, placed on the regular meeting agenda for April 21. This resolution underscores the city's commitment to ensuring justice for victims of unsolved crimes while equipping law enforcement with the necessary resources to solve these cases.

Emergency Justification:**Fiscal Impact:**

Approval of this resolution authorizes the use of up to \$100,000 in the Marijuana Sales Tax Fund for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

Council Action:

Department / Contact	City Manager /
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REVIEWERS

Melissa Cabrera
Jeremy Cover
Zachary Walker
Susanne Holland

ATTACHMENTS:

1. CM Stewart Cold Case Resolution
2. Cold Case Presentation - Read-Only

BILL NO. _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REWARD MONEY FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE RESOLUTION OF SPECIFIC UNSOLVED CASES AND FUNDING DNA TESTING FOR CASES AS DETERMINED BY THE CITY MANAGER. *(Requested by Councilmember Brice Stewart)*

WHEREAS, the City of Independence is committed to seeking justice for victims of unsolved crimes and ensuring that law enforcement has the necessary resources to advance investigations; and

WHEREAS, the Independence Police Department estimates that there are over 30 unsolved homicide cases dating back to 1971; and

WHEREAS, it is believed that some of these cases would greatly benefit through the generation of additional leads or the use of modern-day technologies such as DNA testing; and

WHEREAS, to generate new leads and encourage public assistance, the City of Independence wishes to offer reward money for information leading to the resolution of specific cases; and

WHEREAS, naming the victims in the resolution will aid in garnering increased media attention, thereby increasing the likelihood of obtaining valuable information; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the reward money, the City seeks to allocate funding for DNA testing to further support investigative efforts in solving cases; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City to grant the City Manager the authority to adjust which cases are eligible for reward money in instances where the originally designated cases are no longer generating leads; and

WHEREAS, the City Council will consider this resolution at the April 14th study session and, upon discussion, seek a consensus to waive procedural rules and place it on the April 21st regular meeting agenda; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department will be responsible for updating its website with case profiles and details on how to provide information to be eligible for the reward money, as well as issuing a press release upon passage of this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the Independence City Council hereby authorizes the allocation of reward money for information leading to the resolution of the following unsolved cases: Diana Ault, Lakota Renville, Jevon Basler, Kentral Gray, Carlos Burnette.

SECTION 2. That the Independence City Council authorizes funding for DNA testing in unsolved cases as determined by the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

SECTION 3. That the Marijuana Sales Tax Fund shall be used to support both the reward money and the DNA testing in a combined amount not to exceed \$100,000 for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

SECTION 4. That the City Manager is granted the authority to modify the list of cases eligible for reward money should leads diminish in the initially designated cases.

SECTION 5. That the Police Department shall update its website with case profiles and instructions for the public on providing information to be eligible for reward money and shall be prepared to issue a press release regarding this initiative upon the passage of this resolution.

SECTION 6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage by the City Council.

PASSED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2025, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.

Presiding Officer of the City Council
of the City of Independence, Missouri

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED - FORM AND LEGALITY:

City Counselor

REVIEWED BY:

City Manager

Cold Case Reward Program



Initiative Funding...

- This proposed program is designed to generate leads and attention to unsolved homicides (Cold Cases) in our City.
- The City has identified the initial amount of \$100,000 to be used from the Marijuana Sales Tax Fund for this initiative.
- The funding will allow for both a reward for information leading to the successful conviction/solving of one of the identified cases AND/OR testing of evidence with updated technology/methodologies (DNA, etc.)
- Reward: a \$10,000 reward will be offered (through CrimeStoppers) for information that leads to the conviction or solving of the case.

Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline, a program of the Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission, to facilitate a partnership between the public, the media and law enforcement in order to help make the metropolitan area a safer place to live, work and visit. Greater KC Crime Stoppers utilizes citizen support and media assistance in aiding law enforcement agencies in solving crimes and bringing wanted criminals to justice.

About Greater KC Crime Stoppers:

- Established in 1982
- Covers 9 counties in the KC Metro Area
- Prioritizes anonymity
- Provides numerous avenues for submitting tips:



REMAIN ANONYMOUS

 **TIPS HOTLINE**
816-474-8477

 **WEB TIPS**
KCcrimestoppers.com

 **FREE MOBILE APP**
P3Tips.com



Since 1982	
Arrests Made	11,625
Cases Cleared	25,754
Rewards Paid	\$1,755,330
Property Recovered	\$10,588,602
Drugs Seized	\$29,325,754
Total \$ Recovered	\$39,914,330
As of 03/31/2025	

Staff Design

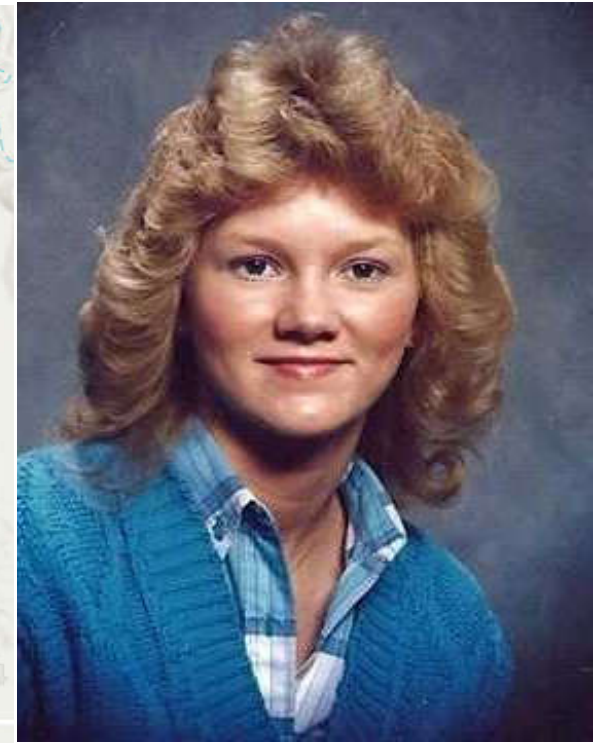
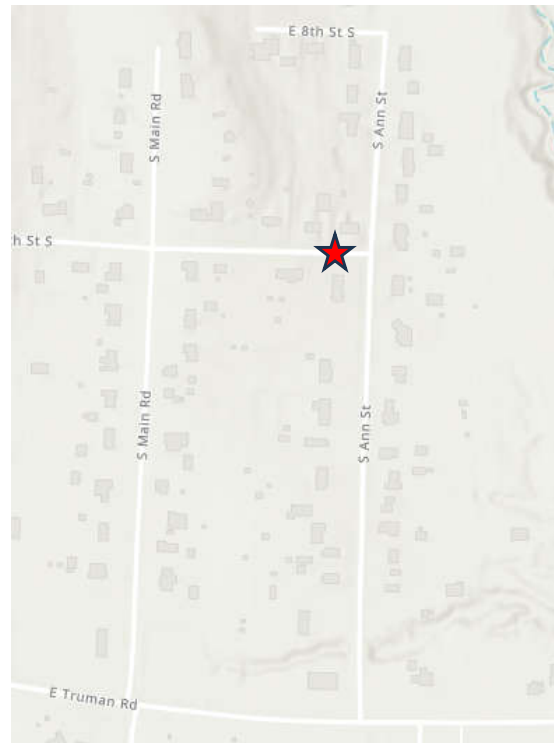
IPD Criminal Investigations Unit

Each case will have an assigned detective.

Should any tips surface, the case detective may be assisted by additional detectives or CIU supervisors as well as additional units such as the Crime Analyst Unit or Crime Scene Unit.

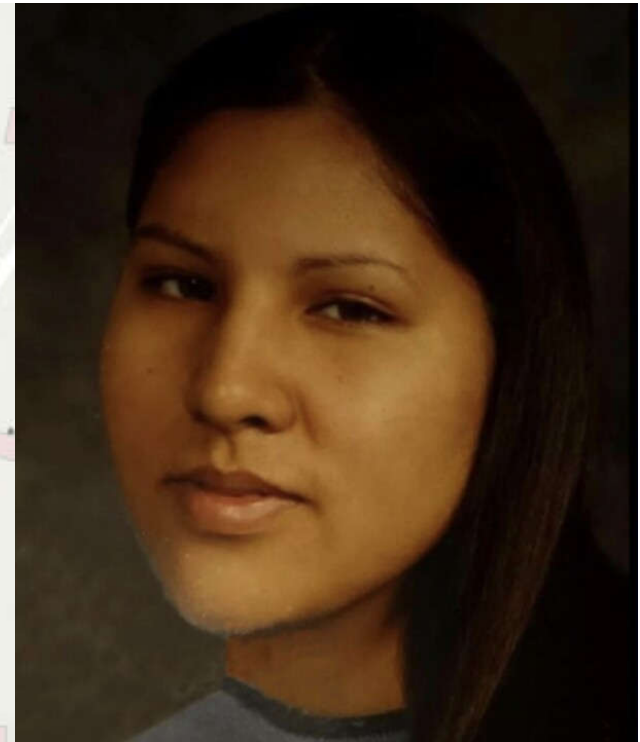
94-2154 Diana Ault

- January 31, 1994
- 19000 Block of E 9th St S
- 26-year-old Diana Ault was shot and killed in her home with her two young children nearby.



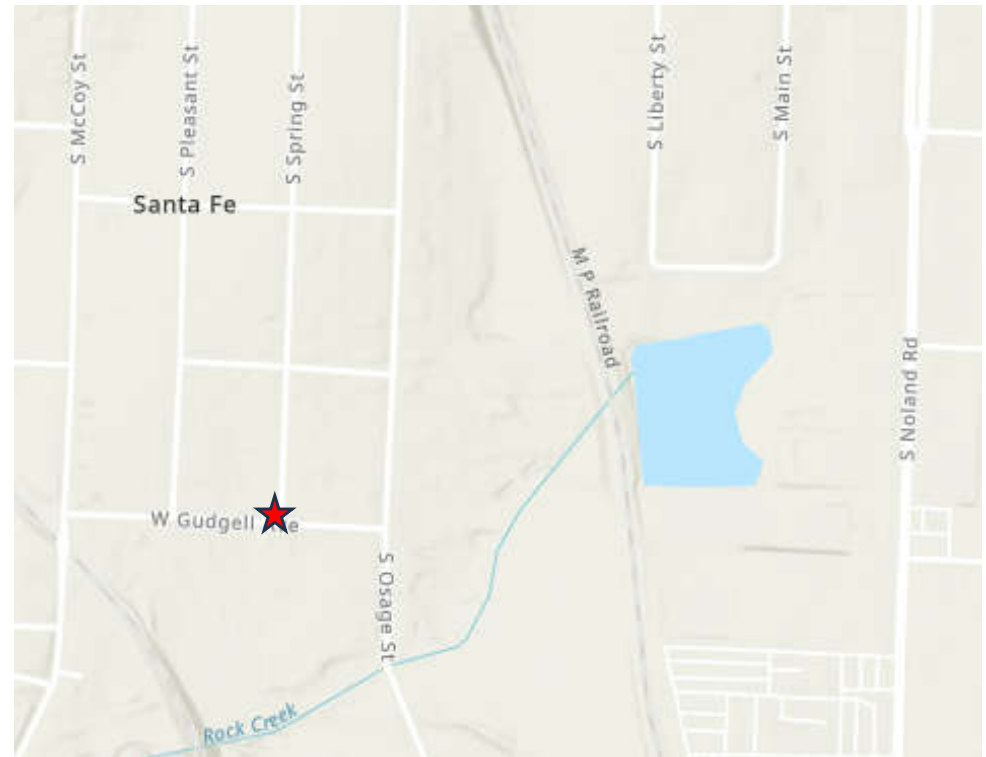
05-105719 Lakota Renville

- October 16, 2005
- Pitcher Road
- The body of 22-year-old Lakota Renville was discovered near a gravel lot. She had been beaten and stabbed.



08-113798 Jevon Basler

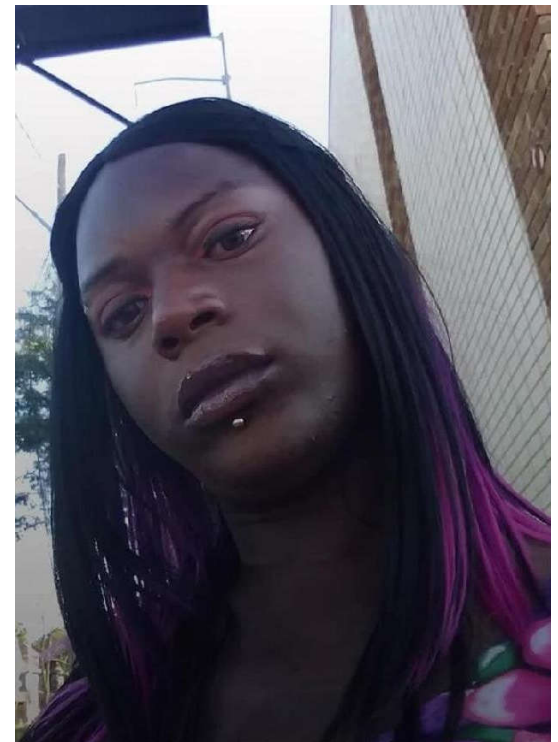
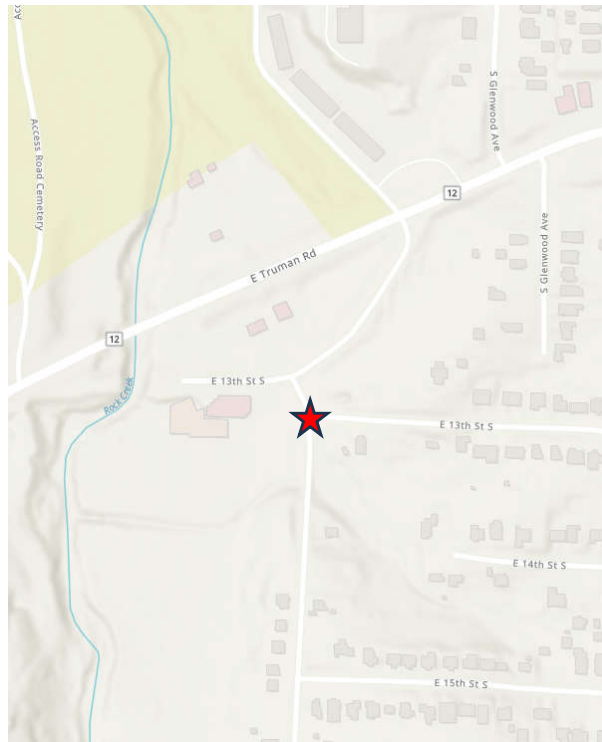
- November 23, 2008
- 300 Block W Gudgell Ave
- 32-year-old Jevon Basler was shot and killed.



20-61910

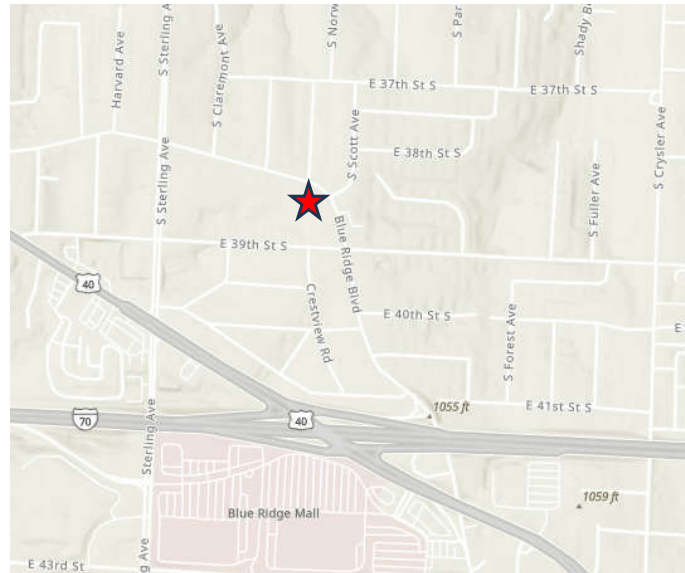
Carlos “Aerrion” Burnett

- September 19, 2020
- 13th Street & Brookside
- 37-year-old Carlos D. Burnett, a transgender woman who identified herself as Aerrion Burnett, was shot and killed.



21-31208 Kentral Gray

- May 22, 2021
- 3800 Block of S. Blue Ridge Blvd
- 20-year-old Kentral Gray was shot and killed inside the residence



City of Independence

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Agenda Title:

A Resolution directing the City Manager to commit the City of Independence to participation in "Legacy Project: TC3" as part of the 2026 Parade of Hearts Program. *(Requested by Councilmember Heather Wiley).*

Recommendations:

Staff recommends approval of the resolution as sponsored by Councilmember Wiley.

Disclosure: EverStrive Solutions, LLC is a contract consultant for the Parade of Hearts on matters of regional coordination. City Manager Zach Walker's spouse, Lauren Palmer, is a partner and owner of EverStrive Solutions. EverStrive Solutions has no direct financial stake in the outcome of this action.

Background:

This resolution, sponsored by Councilmember Wiley, authorizes the City of Independence's participation in Legacy Project: T3C. This initiative—adapted from the Parade of Hearts Municipality Program—is designed to enhance regional tourism collaboration and economic impact by unifying marketing efforts across city and county jurisdictions in the Kansas City region.

Legacy Project: T3C (Tourism Collaboration, Communication, and Coordination) aims to strengthen regional tourism, promote local businesses, and boost economic activity by providing a centralized digital platform. This platform will consolidate tourism assets, events, and activities to facilitate streamlined communication and coordinated marketing among participating municipalities.

The initiative is open to cities and counties in Missouri (Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte) and Kansas (Douglas, Johnson, Wyandotte). Each municipality is expected to designate a representative or appropriate entity (such as a visitors' bureau or Chamber of Commerce) to serve on a coordinating task force. Participation requires a one-time financial commitment of \$10,000 per municipality. In return, participants will benefit from increased regional visibility, integrated event promotion through geo-targeting and real-time notifications, and access to a robust digital resource designed to attract both local residents and tourists. Additionally, an estimated 3-5 hours per month (from May 2025 through September 2026) is expected for collaboration and updates to the platform. The digital platform is scheduled for public launch from April through September 2026, with the possibility of continued use beyond that period. Municipalities must submit an opt-in acknowledgment by April 30, 2025, and remit the financial contribution by December 31, 2025.

The resolution authorizes the City Manager to secure the City's participation by executing the opt-in acknowledgment and managing the financial commitment. The Independence

Convention & Visitors' Bureau is designated to represent the City on the coordinating task force, ensuring efficient regional communication and collaboration. This resolution represents a strategic effort to consolidate tourism promotion and leverage regional cooperation for lasting economic benefits.

Emergency Justification:

Fiscal Impact:

Participation requires a one-time financial commitment of \$10,000 per municipality. If approved, funding would be included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Submitted Budget.

Council Action:

Department / Contact	City Manager /
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REVIEWERS

Melissa Cabrera
Jeremy Cover
Zachary Walker
Susanne Holland

ATTACHMENTS:

1. CM Wiley POH Resolution

BILL NO. _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN LEGACY PROJECT: T3C (Tourism Collaboration, Communication, and Coordination) TO ENHANCE REGIONAL TOURISM COLLABORATION AND ECONOMIC IMPACT (Adapted from the Parade of Hearts Municipality Program) (*Sponsored by Councilmember Heather Wiley*)

WHEREAS, the Kansas City region seeks to strengthen regional tourism, promote local businesses, and enhance economic impact by unifying marketing efforts across city and county jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, in early February 2025, Parade of Hearts introduced the POH26 Municipality Program to foster regional tourism collaboration for 2026, which has since been rebranded as Legacy Project: T3C to reflect its long-term impact beyond the landmark year; and

WHEREAS, Legacy Project: T3C is designed to provide participating cities and counties with exclusive access to a web-based mobile platform that centralizes tourism assets, events, and activities, thereby streamlining communications and promoting collaborative regional marketing; and

WHEREAS, the program is open to city and county governments in the Missouri Counties of Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte and the Kansas Counties of Douglas, Johnson, Wyandotte; and

WHEREAS, participation in Legacy Project: T3C requires each municipality to appoint a representative (or designate an appropriate entity such as a visitors' bureau or Chamber of Commerce) to serve on the coordinating task force, which will be responsible for sharing and coordinating tourism information, advising on the development and community-specific integration of the digital platform; and facilitating effective regional promotion; and

WHEREAS, the key benefits of Legacy Project: T3C include enhanced regional visibility, streamlined communications, integrated event promotion via geo-targeting and real-time notifications, and access to a centralized digital resource that is expected to attract tens of thousands of visitors alongside millions of regional residents; and

WHEREAS, the cost for participation is established at a one-time financial commitment of \$10,000 per municipality, a fee structured to ensure equitable access regardless of community size, with the possibility for private-sector contributions to assist in funding; and

WHEREAS, participants are expected to provide an estimated time commitment of 3-5 hours per month between May 2025 and September 2026, ensuring continuous collaboration and timely updates to the digital platform; and

WHEREAS, the digital platform is scheduled to be available to the public from April through September 2026 with the potential for ongoing regional use as a legacy impact of the initiative; and

WHEREAS, to formalize their commitment, municipalities are required to execute an opt-in acknowledgment by April 30, 2025, and to remit the required financial contribution on or before

December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the initiative represents a unique opportunity to consolidate tourism promotion efforts and ensure that no single municipality is isolated in its marketing endeavors, thereby maximizing the region's collective impact; and

WHEREAS, on March 6th, 2025 the Independence Arts Council received a presentation from Legacy Project: T3C and was supportive of participation in this program; and,

WHEREAS, Councilmember Heather Wiley is the City Council liaison to the Independence Arts Council and is sponsoring this resolution on their behalf;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the City Council hereby authorizes participation in Legacy Project: T3C.

SECTION 2. That the City Council hereby designates the Independence Convention & Visitors' Bureau to serve on the T3C coordinating task force, thereby ensuring efficient communication and coordination of regional tourism initiatives.

SECTION 3. That the City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to make a one-time financial commitment of \$10,000 to secure access to the digital platform, cover its development, coordination, and ongoing support, with provisions for private contributions where applicable.

SECTION 4. That the City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to demonstrate the City of Independence's commitment by executing an opt-in acknowledgment by April 30, 2025, with the financial contribution to be submitted on or before December 31, 2025.

SECTION 5. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage, thereby enabling the timely implementation of Legacy Project: T3C in preparation for its public launch in April 2026.

PASSED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2025, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.

Presiding Officer of the City Council
of the City of Independence, Missouri

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED - FORM AND LEGALITY:

City Counselor

REVIEWED BY:

City Manager



Criteria-Based Dispatch

Independence Fire Dept.

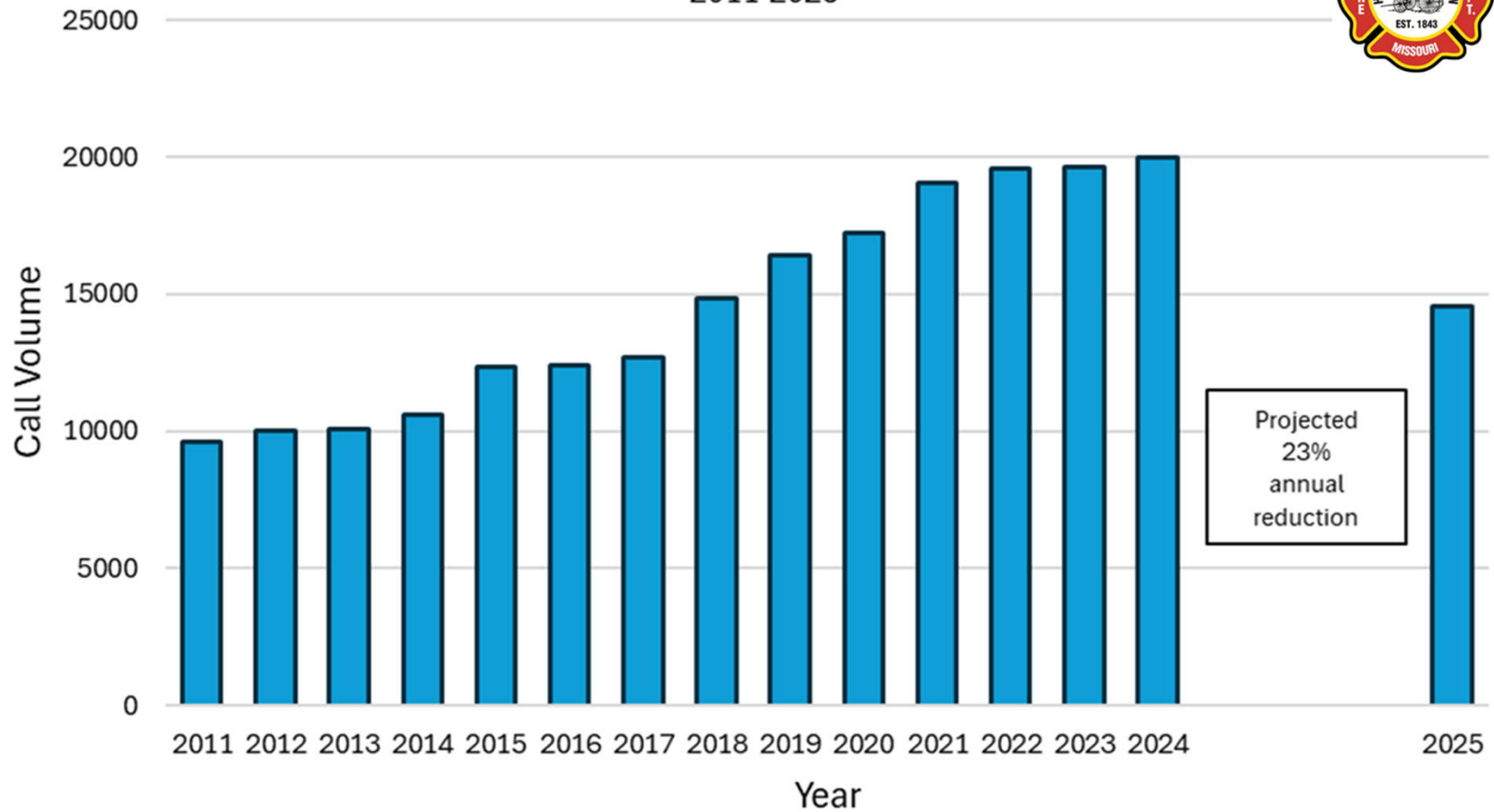




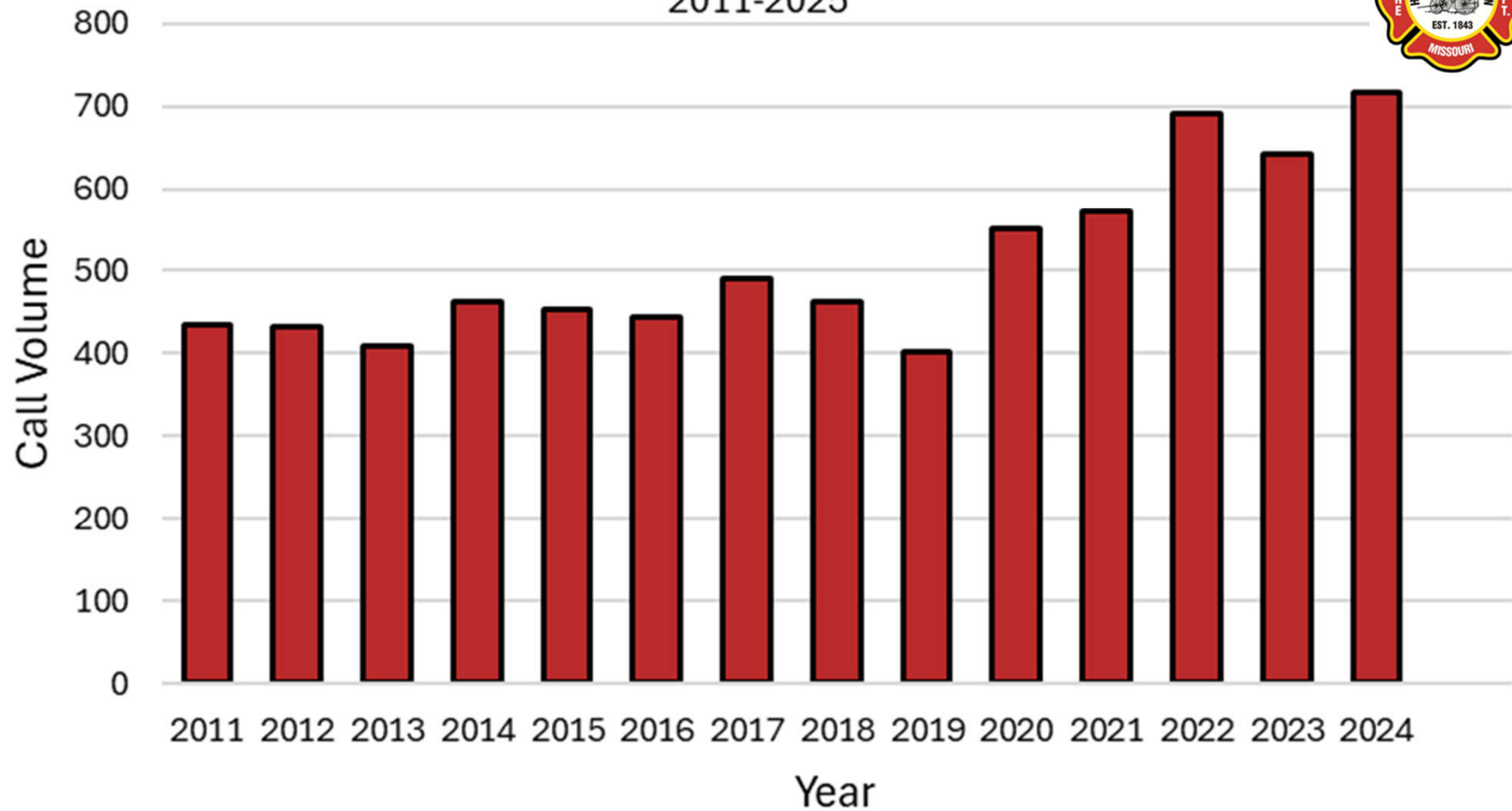
Criteria-Based Dispatch

- System for sorting medical 9-1-1 requests to reduce fire response on low-acuity requests, such as “dental pain” or “rashes”.
- Prioritizes high-acuity responses while reducing maintenance and response risks on low-acuity incidents.
- AMR remains the primary responder for low-acuity incidents while requesting IFD support if needed.

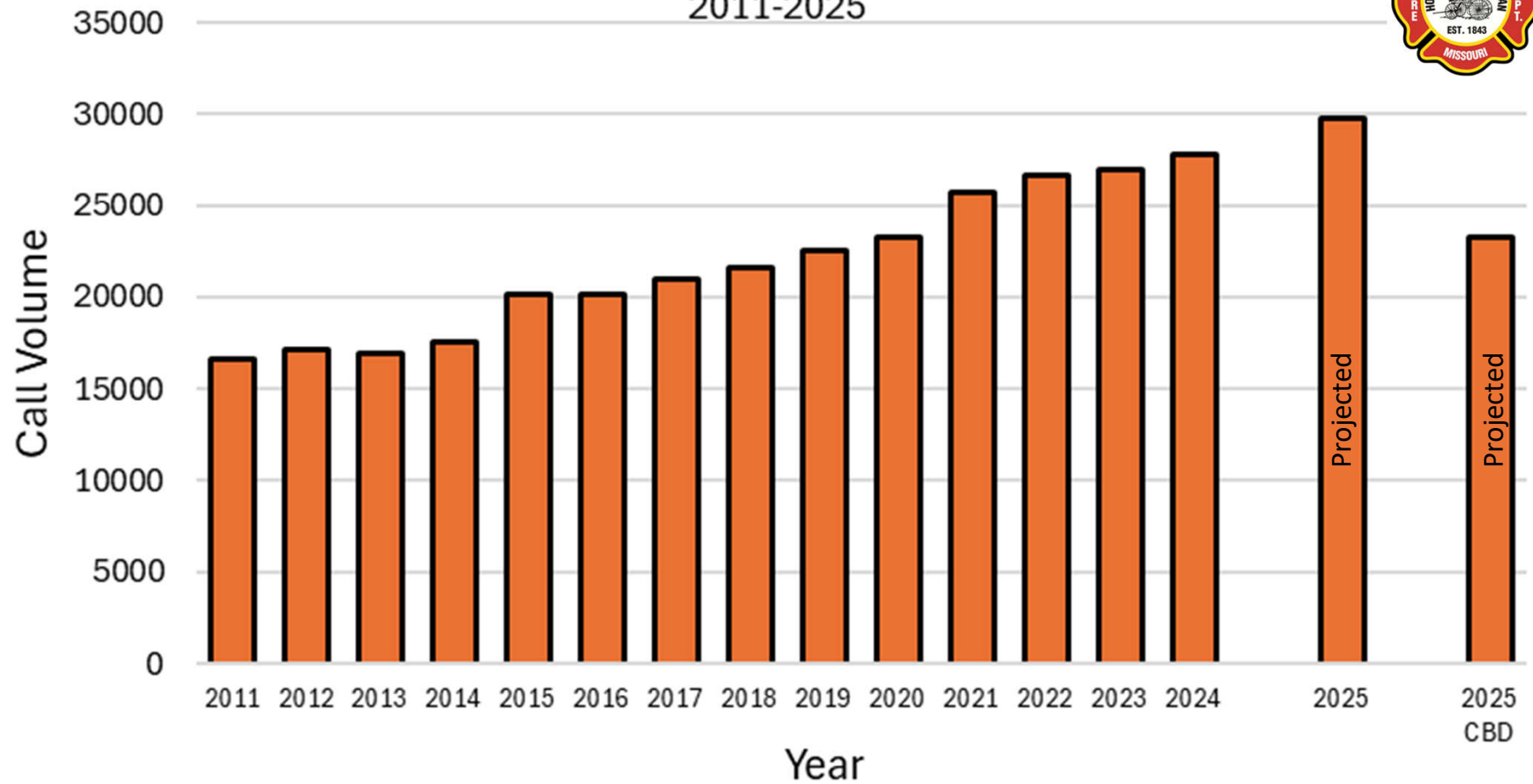
Medical Response 2011-2025



Fire Response 2011-2025



Total 9-1-1 Response 2011-2025



Criteria-Based Dispatch

- Prioritizes high-acuity responses while reducing costs and response risks on low-acuity incidents.
- Oversight by AMR, ECC and IFD staff to ensure appropriate operation and improvements as needed.





Criteria-Based Dispatch

Executive Summary

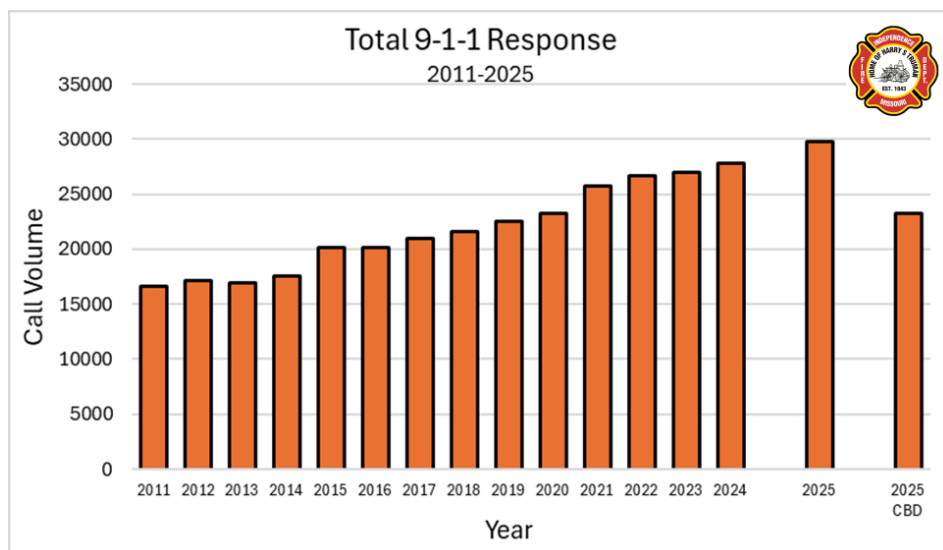
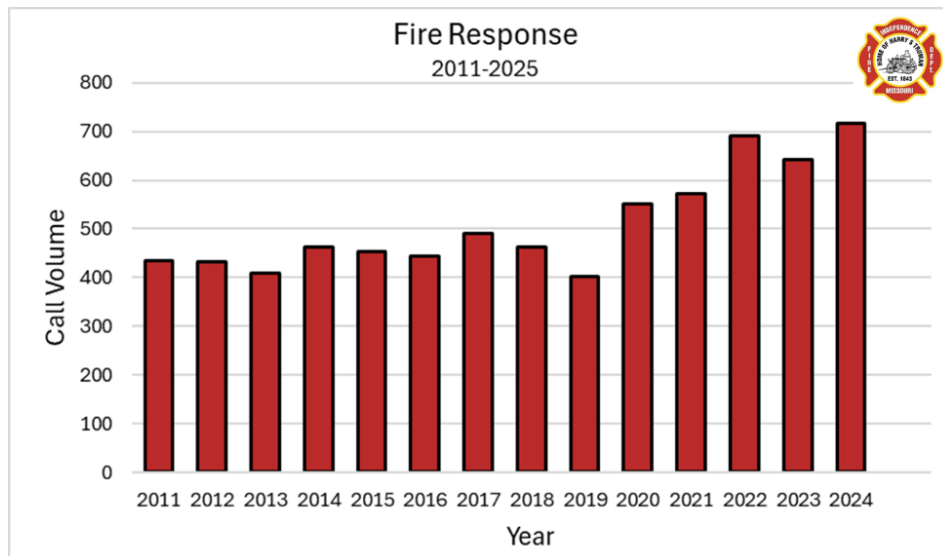
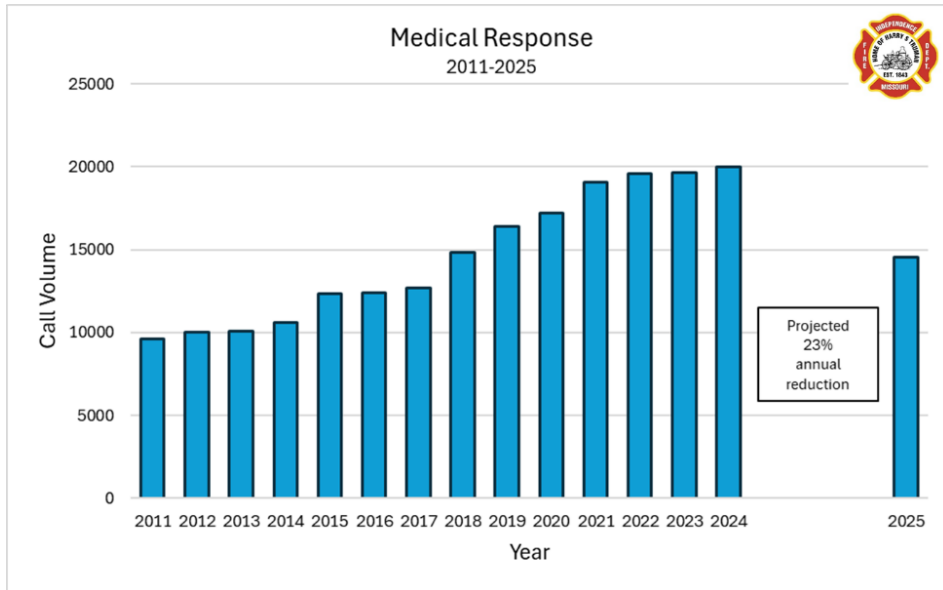
For over 35 years, IFD has responded to all 9-1-1 calls involving medical complaints. The volume of these requests have consistently increased. Since 1985, medical incidents have accounted for at least half of IFD's annual responses, reaching over 70% in 2024.

Deploying EMT- and paramedic-trained firefighters to critical medical emergencies remains a vital part of our 9-1-1 system. However, the growing volume and range of medical requests have led to fire apparatus being dispatched to incidents where they are not needed. This practice reduces the availability of emergency resources, increases maintenance costs, and poses unnecessary risks to personnel.

To address this, IFD and the ECC implemented Criteria-Based Dispatch on January 1st. Under this system, 9-1-1 dispatchers assess incoming medical calls based on key words used by the caller. If a call does not include a designated key word indicating a critical emergency, fire units are not dispatched, and the call is relayed to AMR for response. Criteria-Based Dispatch has been an effective tool utilized by multiple other regional fire departments.

Since the program's launch, IFD's medical call volume has decreased by 23%. Calls where fire apparatus was not dispatched include complaints such as "dental pain", "skin rashes", and other low-acuity concerns. AMR continues to handle these responses and may request IFD assistance at any time if needed.

Criteria-Based Dispatch reduces response times for critical emergencies, reduces maintenance and personnel risks associated with response, and promotes cost efficiency, ensuring fire apparatus are available when they are needed most.





INDEPENDENCE

★ MISSOURI ★

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IndependenceMO.org

Emergency Preparedness

- Currently includes:
 - Chief of Emergency Operations
 - Emergency Manager
 - Assistant Emergency Manager
 - Administrative Assistant

Grants:

- Awarded \$250,000
- Waiting on \$6.2M for Covid reimbursement

Training:

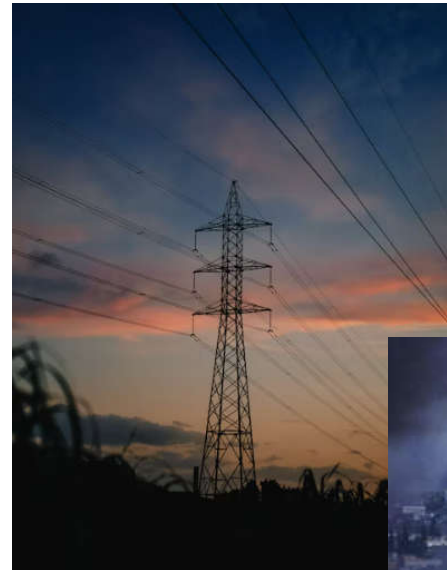
- Completed 3,000+ hours
- Leadership Completed 900+ hours
- Exercises and Events 1,300 hours

Exercises, Workshops and Presentations:

- Local Events: 15
- Regional, State and Federal 18
- 71 Participants

Types of Emergencies

- Thunderstorms
- Tornado
- Winter/Ice Storms
- Energy/Utility outages
- Hazardous material releases
- Terrorism
- Cyber Threats



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Watch vs. Warning



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Storm season is here...

55 Tornado events confirmed
in Missouri for 2025.

3,200 Damaging wind reports

1,000 Damaging hail reports



emergency preparedness starts at home.



Make a plan



Build a kit



Stay informed

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Make a Plan

What do I include?

- Plan escape routes
- Locate the best shelter-in-place rooms in your home
- Develop a family communications plan
- Decide on meet up locations
- Write down post emergency contact numbers
- Know how to administer basic first aid, fire extinguisher usage and turning off utilities in your home.
- Write down medications
- Get involved in community preparedness efforts

Build a Kit

What do I include?

- A gallon of water, per person for at least three days
- 3-day supply of non-perishable food
- Flashlight and Batteries (battery packs)
- Battery powered radio
- Whistle
- Mask
- Copies of Important Documents
- Over the counter medication (aspirin, Tylenol, antacid, Benadryl etc)
- First-aid kits
 - *Prescription medication (rotate to account for expiration dates)

Stay Informed & Get Involved

What do I need?

- NOAA Weather Radio
- RAVE/Smart911
 - Sign up on our website: www.independencemo.gov/emergency-management
- Outdoor Warning System
 - “Adopt-a-Siren” Program (816-365-7170)

How do I get Involved?

- Become a volunteer in EP
 - Become a member of CERT
 - 36 different programs



Be Prepared For Emergencies



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★ A GREAT AMERICAN STORY ★



MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 14, 2025

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Susanne Holland, City Clerk

SUBJECT: Boards and Commissions Report

Animal Welfare Committee

- A recommendation has been made to appoint Linda Pringle, Linda Humphrey, Tammy Huff, and Rachel Eis to the Animal Welfare Committee.
- Staff requests direction to add a resolution to the next regular meeting, appointing these individuals to the above board.

Tax Increment Financing Commission

- Recommendations have been made to appoint Amanda McIntyre and Grant Watkins Davis to the Tax Increment Financing Commission.
- Staff requests direction to add a resolution to the next regular meeting, appointing these individuals to the above board.

Heritage Commission

- A recommendation has been made to appoint Haven Herndon and reappoint Lee Argo to the Heritage Commission.
- Staff requests direction to add a resolution to the next regular meeting, appointing these individuals to the above board.



Japanese Sister City Committee

- A recommendation has been made to reappoint Katie Gall to the Japanese Sister City Committee.
- Staff requests direction to add a resolution to the next regular meeting, reappointing this individual to the above board.

City Parks Commission

- A recommendation has been made to appoint Katherine Leiker to the City Parks Commission.
- Staff requests direction to add a resolution to the next regular meeting, appointing this individual to the above board.

Tree Commission

- A recommendation has been made to appoint Jim Hannah to the Tree Commission.
- Staff requests direction to add a resolution to the next regular meeting, appointing this individual to the above board.

Independence Arts Council

- A recommendation has been made to appoint Nancy Eppert to the Independence Arts Council.
- Staff requests direction to add a resolution to the next regular meeting, appointing this individual to the above board.