



AGENDA INFORMATION
TIFFIN CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

DATE:	October 17, 2025
AGENDA ITEM:	Resolution 2025-079 – A Resolution Approving the Creation of a Reserve Savings Account for the Fire Department for the Acquisition, Possession, and Maintenance of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Service Major Equipment and Vehicles
ACTION:	Approval

Purpose

To request City Council approval for the creation of a dedicated reserve savings account for the Fire Department to support the acquisition, possession, and maintenance of major fire, rescue, and emergency medical service (EMS) equipment and vehicles.

Background

The City of Tiffin continues to experience rapid residential and commercial growth, resulting in increased demand for fire and EMS services. The cost of major equipment and vehicles has risen significantly in recent years, making long-term financial planning essential.

Effective July 1, 2025, the Iowa Legislature enacted House File 297, amending Iowa Code 384.3, which now allows municipalities to establish reserve savings accounts specifically for police, fire, rescue, and EMS equipment and vehicles. This legislative change provides cities with a new tool for managing and preserving funds for critical public safety infrastructure.

This resolution does not allocate specific funds at this time but creates a mechanism for future budgeting and financial planning. It provides flexibility and transparency in managing capital purchases for the Fire Department.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of **Resolution 2025-079** to establish the Fire Department Reserve Savings Account in accordance with Iowa Code 384.3(2).

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-079

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CREATION OF A RESERVE SAVINGS ACCOUNT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THE ACQUISITION, POSSESSION, AND MAINTENANCE OF FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE MAJOR EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES

WHEREAS, the City of Tiffin (hereinafter “City”) is a municipal corporation under Iowa law; and,

WHEREAS, the City maintains a fire department pursuant to Iowa Code section 364.16; and,

WHEREAS, the City is experiencing rapid growth and a significant increase in demand and need for fire, rescue, and emergency medical services; and,

WHEREAS, the General Assembly enacted House File 297, amending Iowa Code section 384.3, effective July 1, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, the costs of equipment and vehicles for fire, rescue, and emergency medical services have substantially increased in recent years; and,

WHEREAS, the City wishes to create a reserve savings account to help fund future major equipment and vehicle purchases for the fire department; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council declares its intention is to provide another option for funding of major equipment and vehicle purchases for the fire department, in addition to any other option allowed by law; and,

WHEREAS, the reserve savings account is separate and distinct from any other account or fund for the costs of acquiring, possessing, and purchasing major equipment and vehicles for fire, rescue, and emergency medical service.

Now, therefore be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Tiffin, Iowa, as follows:

1. The City shall establish a fire department reserve savings account to be used to pay for costs associated with the acquisition, possession, and maintenance of major fire, rescue, or emergency medical service equipment and vehicles.
2. Funds may be budgeted each fiscal year in an amount to be determined and approved by the City Council for the fire department reserve savings account.
3. Unspent budgeted funds may be transferred and deposited into the reserve savings account prior to the end of each fiscal year with City Council approval.
4. If the City receives a payment, award, judgment, or insurance settlement for damaged fire, rescue, or emergency medical services equipment or vehicles, the City shall deposit the moneys into the reserve savings account rather than the general fund of the City. However, if the City uses moneys from its general fund to cover costs to repair or replace damaged fire, rescue, or emergency medical services equipment or vehicles, the City may deposit into its general fund an amount received from the payment, award, judgment, or insurance settlement that is equal to the amount used

from the general fund. The City shall deposit any remaining amount received from the payment, award, judgment, or insurance settlement into the relevant fund or reserve savings account. See Iowa Code § 384.3(2)(b) (effective July 1, 2025).

5. Unused moneys in the reserve savings account established pursuant to Iowa Code § 384.3(2)(a) will remain in the account at the end of each fiscal year and will rollover to the next fiscal year.
6. The fire department may, with City Council approval, use funds from the reserve savings account for the purchase of major equipment or vehicles for fire, rescue, or emergency medical services.
7. Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed to be limit the City's ability or option to fund any fire, rescue, or emergency medical services through other funding sources, accounts, or mechanisms as permitted by law.
8. The City Clerk, City Administrator, and Mayor are authorized to take any action necessary for the creation of the reserve savings account, including executing financial documents, to establish said account and other actions needed to carry out this Resolution.

On the 21st day of October, 2025, at a regular meeting of the Tiffin City Council, Tiffin, Iowa, Councilperson _____ introduced **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-079, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CREATION OF A RESERVE SAVINGS ACCOUNT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THE ACQUISITION, POSSESSION, AND MAINTENANCE OF FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE MAJOR EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES**, and made a motion for approval. Motion seconded by Councilperson _____.

Ayes:
Nays:
Absent:

Whereupon _____ Council members were present and voted approval and Mayor Kasparek declared that **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-079, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CREATION OF A RESERVE SAVINGS ACCOUNT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THE ACQUISITION, POSSESSION, AND MAINTENANCE OF FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE MAJOR EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES**, to be adopted and signified his approval of the same by affixing his signature thereto.

Passed by the City Council on the 21st day of October, 2025.

City of Tiffin

Tim Kasparek, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Abigail Hora, City Clerk



KeyCite Yellow Flag

Proposed Legislation

[Iowa Code Annotated](#)[Title IX. Local Government \[Chs. 331-420\]](#)[Subtitle 4. Cities \[Chs. 362-420\] \(Refs & Annos\)](#)[Chapter 384. City Finance \(Refs & Annos\)](#)[Subchapter I. Taxes and Funds \(Refs & Annos\)](#)

I.C.A. § 384.3

384.3. General fund

[Currentness](#)

<[Text subject to final changes by the Iowa Code Editor for Code 2026.]>

1. All moneys received for city government purposes from taxes and other sources must be credited to the general fund of the city, except that moneys received for the purposes of the debt service fund, the trust and agency funds, the capital improvements reserve fund, the emergency fund, and other funds established by state law must be deposited as otherwise required or authorized by state law. All moneys received by a city from the federal government must be reported to the department of management, who shall transmit a copy to the legislative services agency.

2. a. A city may establish an additional fund or a reserve savings account to pay costs associated with the acquisition, possession, and maintenance of major equipment for police, fire, rescue, or emergency medical services. Moneys in a fund or account established under this paragraph may remain in the fund or account at the end of each fiscal year.

b. If a city has established an additional fund or a reserve savings account under paragraph “a” and has received a payment, award, judgment, or insurance settlement for damaged police, fire, rescue, or emergency medical services equipment or vehicles, the city shall deposit the moneys into the relevant fund or account rather than into the general fund of the city. However, if a city uses moneys from its general fund to cover costs to repair or replace damaged police, fire, rescue, or emergency medical services equipment or vehicles, the city may deposit into its general fund an amount received from the payment, award, judgment, or insurance settlement that is equal to the amount used from the general fund. The city shall deposit any remaining amount received from the payment, award, judgment, or insurance settlement into the relevant fund or account established under paragraph “a”.

c. If a city has established an additional fund under paragraph “a”, moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year may be deposited into a reserve savings account. Moneys in a reserve savings account shall be used for the purpose of maintaining or acquiring major equipment including vehicles.

Credits

Acts 1972 (64 G.A.) ch. 1088, § 84, eff. July 1, 1972. Amended by Acts 1978 (67 G.A.) ch. 1130, § 1, eff. April 9, 1978; [Acts 2003 \(80 G.A.\) ch. 35, § 45, eff. April 14, 2003](#); [Acts 2025 \(91 G.A.\) ch. 90, H.F. 297, § 3, eff. July 1, 2025](#).