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**OMAHA ALLIANCE PROPOSES \$6 MILLION SOLUTION FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT
Fire Department Is Overstaffed By At Least 64 Employees**

(OMAHA, NE) – The Omaha Alliance for the Private Sector (OAPS) today announced its “\$6 Million Solution” for the multi-million-dollar deficit being run by the Omaha Fire Department this year. OAPS said that the Omaha Fire Department is currently over-staffed by as many as 64 firefighters at an average cost of \$100,000 per firefighter, totaling more than \$6 million.

“The financial waste in the fire department can be found in a number of areas,” said OAPS spokesman David Nabity. “Current leaders in management have allowed the employee ranks to swell to numbers clearly not needed to maintain public safety. In addition, there are way too many employees in supervisory positions. The department is grossly top heavy. Our analysis shows the Fire Department can be downsized by at least 64 employees while maintaining public and firefighter safety,” Nabity said.

The OAPS solution – which was reviewed by national and local fire department management specialists – would achieve the following savings:

- Reducing unnecessary upper management would save taxpayers \$2,025,000 per year.
- Eliminating unnecessary apparatus such as one Engine Company, one HAZMAT unit and one Aerial Truck – along with the unnecessary personnel required to operate those vehicles – would save taxpayers \$2,850,000 per year.
- Reducing Vacation and Personal Leave days to reasonable levels and stopping lump sum Sick Day payouts would save taxpayers \$1,650,000 per year.
- Eliminating “out-of-class” pay and misuse of “Detached Duty Status” pay would save taxpayers \$410,000 per year. And **adding** \$450,000 for re-employing clerical staff.

“The Fire Chief has stated in previous meetings with City Council representatives that the problem is not that his department is over budget; the problem is that the City is just not giving his department enough money. As you can see by our analysis, nothing could be farther from the truth,” Nabity said. “The Mayor can demand these layoffs if he has the courage to do so. The Commission of Industrial Relations has clearly stated that ‘Staffing is a Management Prerogative.’ The CIR has given the Fire Chief and the Mayor the discretion to right-size the department if they choose to do so.”

(more)

The Footprint of the Fire Department with OAPS adjustments would look as follows:

	Base #	Min Staff	Shifts	Total Staffing
Engine Companies	23	4	3	276
Aerial Companies	8	4	3	96
Medic Units	15	2	3	90
Battalion Chiefs	5	1	3	15
HazMat Unit	1	4	3	12
Rescue 51	1	2	3	6
Paramedic Shift Supervisor	1	1	3	3
Bureau	1	43	1	43
Total Manning Needed:				541
Excess Manning for Back Up:				57
Excess Per Shift:				19*
Total Employment:				598

“* Only 14 are allowed on vacation at any one time during a shift. This provides 5 extra per shift for sick, injured or on military leave.