



# THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO, CITY MANAGER

April 6, 2017

Nate Rudy  
City Manager  
City Hall  
Hallowell, Maine 04347

Dear Nate,

I appreciated our opportunity to meet yesterday and to continue our discussion about fire protection for Hallowell. To recap what we said, for the time being –while you and your Mayor and Council sort out what you all feel is the best path for Hallowell's well-being going forward – Augusta will continue to provide automatic mutual aid as a good neighbor (consistent with long-standing past practice).

We in Augusta understand that with the hiring of your capable new fire chief you are exploring ways in which to upgrade your volunteer department's capabilities and we do not want you to feel rushed doing that. That said, if ultimately your decision is to permanently stay with the current automatic mutual aid arrangement, I believe some level of financial compensation is only fair and will be expected by my Mayor and Council. My recommendation to them for what the annual amount should be has yet to be determined but I would think it would be in the range of \$100,000 a year.

If you decide that you wish to have the same type of mutual aid agreement with us that we have in place with other neighboring communities (where we come only as back-up and when called by your department to do so) then, of course, we would not be seeking compensation for that assistance.

I appreciate that this has been a challenging process for you and I wish you and your elected officials all the best as you go forward.

Sincerely,

S/

William R. Bridgeo  
City Manager

C: Mayor and Council of Augusta  
Chief Roger Audette