



Racine Fire Department
810 Eighth St, Racine WI 53403

February 14, 2019

Honorable Mayor and
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council,

The Fire Department is requesting permission to waive formal bidding and purchase the 2019 Defender MAX XT Rescue Utility Vehicle from Bombardier Recreational Products (BRP) authorized dealer using the proceeds from the Racine Community Foundation grant which was awarded in November of 2018. This unit is an off-road vehicle capable of going over rough, slippery, and challenging terrain in support of our firefighting, emergency medical services and technical rescue mission.

The fire department began researching Rescue UTVs in earnest last year to enhance the off-road capabilities of the fire department. Throughout the City of Racine we have multiple areas where easy access to patient or accident victims is difficult. Areas such as Washington Park, Washington Park golf course, North Beach, Zoo Beach, Root River walkway, Carre-Hogle Park, Johnson Park golf course, Shoop golf course and other undeveloped areas of the city have difficult terrain to navigate causing delays in emergency operations. In most cases, due to their compact size and off-road capabilities, a UTV can be brought much closer to the actual location of a technical rescue scene than our front line fire apparatus. A UTV can also be used to more easily navigate crowded public events hosted in Racine such as First Friday, Party on the Pavement, Racine Fourth Fest, and Prom to name a few.

Due to the unique design and capabilities needed in the Rescue Utility Vehicle the fire department has researched comparable products and found the Bombardier Recreational Products unit to be superior to other units in the marketplace. Additionally the Rescue Utility Vehicle will be outfitted with limited firefighting capabilities and extended EMS capabilities for off-road emergencies. This project is being entirely funded by the proceeds from the two grants totaling \$25,000.

Bombardier Recreational Products (BRP) is a local business with a facility located in Sturtevant, Wisconsin, that sells their products through authorized dealers.

Grant control number 00169 was assigned in January 2018.

Fiscal Note: Estimated cost of the vehicle is \$22,089 and is available in Account Number 206.20601.48500.30005. There are no levy dollars associated with this acquisition.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen, Fire Chief