



RACINE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Chief's Office: 262-635-7911

July 17, 2007

Honorable Mayor and
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council Members:

During the "2007 CIP" process conducted in June of 2006, the fire department requested appropriations to replace two fire department staff vehicles which were 13 years (1994), and 11 years old (1996) respectively. Both vehicles are well beyond their normal service life and both vehicles had mechanical issues that would require costly repairs in the near future. The 1994 service vehicle was approved for replacement under the CIP plan and has since been replaced.

On May 31st, 2007, the 1996 Dodge mini van, which is 11 years old, suffered a failure of the steering mechanism, causing the vehicle to spin wildly out of control in the intersection of 8th and Center Street, before the vehicle came to rest on the west curb in front of the City Hall Annex. We are extremely fortunate that no other vehicles or pedestrians were damaged or injured in the accident. This mini van was never designed or built for fire service use and again is well beyond its useful life expectancy.

We respectfully request the transfer of \$36,000 from account 101.300.5030 Overtime to account 101.300.5780, to replace this vehicle with a vehicle more suitable for the fire service. The funds will cover the cost of a new vehicle under the State Value Bid contract. Using our cost projections, we anticipate the remaining funds in the Overtime Account will be more than sufficient to cover overtime costs for the remainder of the year.

As of July 1st, 2007, we have expended \$120,775.27 in overtime costs out of a budgeted amount of \$342,483. We do not anticipate any extraordinary overtime expenses through the end of the years.

The attached photograph shows the 1996 Dodge up on the curb with both front wheels pointed at each other after the failure of the steering mechanism.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen
Fire Chief



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