



City of Racine, Wisconsin
AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORADUM

AGENDA DATE:	October 2, 2025
SUBJECT:	Wisconsin Emergency Management Interoperable Grant
PREPARED BY:	Fire Chief Steve Hansen
SUMMARY:	Communications sponsored by Alder Horton on behalf of the Fire Chief requesting permission to apply for and accept the Wisconsin Emergency Management and Office of Emergency Communications FY2026 Interoperable Radio Grant Program.
PROJECT BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:	Wisconsin Emergency Management and the Office of Emergency Communications currently have an interoperable grant program open through January 15, 2026. This grant allows the fire department to flash upgrade, add radio program software, our Motorola APX 8000 portable radios and APX 8500 mobile radios to include Digital, Trunking, TDMA Phase 2, Link Layer Authentication, and AES 256 encryption. These upgrades will ensure our existing radios maintain compatibility with the new WISCOM 800 statewide radio system and will also enable full operation on the new Racine County trunking system. The upgrades will extend the life of the existing radios by more than 10 years. The grant provides up to \$50,000, with a 20% local match requirement for a total of \$60,000. This opportunity will modernize fire department communications equipment, strengthen regional interoperability, and improve operational readiness during critical incidents. Grant Control Number 00682.
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	The Common Council authorize the Fire Chief to apply for and accept the Wisconsin Emergency Management and Office of Emergency Communications FY2026 Interoperable Radio Grant Program in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, with a required 20% local match.
FISCAL NOTE:	When awarded matching funds are available in account 45030-57350