



***Racine Fire Department***  
810 Eighth St, Racine WI 53403

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November 6, 2014

Honorable Mayor and  
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council,

The Fire Chief is requesting permission to apply for a grant, in the amount not to exceed \$15,000, from the Wheaton Franciscan All Saints Foundation, to purchase additional equipment for the handling of bariatric patients in the greater Racine area.

The Fire Department recognizes we are experiencing challenges with patients in the community who are classified as bariatric patients. These are individuals who weigh in excess of 300 pounds and require specialized transport equipment in order to safely deliver the patients to the hospital emergency rooms. Currently, the fire department has one reserve rescue squad that is configured to accept a bariatric cot with a capacity of 1,600 pounds; however, we lack the ramps and winch assembly to safely load these patients in the rescue squad. We rely on extra manpower to lift the cot. In order to minimize lifting injuries and therefore minimize worker compensation injuries, we are seeking to acquire, through this grant, the necessary ramps, winches and hoist to be placed on our reserve rescue squad that will remain configured for bariatric patients.

As part of the grant request the fire department is providing in-kind support. We already have the reserve rescue squad available, and we already have the bariatric cot. We will provide for the installation of the additional equipment which is estimated at about \$300 and will be covered under our maintenance budget.

The request is regional in nature and we will make this resource available to the RAMAC EMS participating departments. Should one of the RAMAC EMS departments request transport of a bariatric patient, Racine Fire Department will receive the EMS billing, mileage and supply costs directly through our EMS billing agency using our established EMS rate structure. This service is provided under our Mutual Aid agreements.

**Fiscal Note:** The Fire Department will be providing an in-kind support for the grant in the amount of \$27,800 with existing equipment, and will cover the estimated installation cost of \$300.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen, Fire Chief