



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

May 15, 2008

Honorable Mayor and  
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council:

Recently the fire department took delivery of a 2008 Ford E450/Medtec modular rescue squad. That unit was placed in service on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008, and is assigned to Rescue 8. The former Rescue 8, a 2002 Ford E350/Medtec modular rescue squad, will be assigned to a reserve rescue squad and the oldest rescue squad in the fleet, a 1995 Ford E350 modular rescue squad, is being retired. This will keep our fleet of rescue squads at six, plus one spare.

As a review, the fire department operates three front-line Paramedic Rescue Squads assigned to Rescue 1, 7 and 8, as well as operating three reserve rescue squads assigned to Rescue 2, 4 and 6. These reserve rescue squads are cross-staffed with personnel from an Engine or Truck Company. When a reserve rescue squad makes an emergency run, its companion Engine or Truck Company is completely out-of-service for other emergency calls given that their personnel jump over to the reserve rescue squad.

The Racine Fire Bells is a volunteer, "not-for-profit, fire department support group." The Fire Bells provide a Rehab Service to the Racine Fire Department, surrounding fire departments, and area law enforcement agencies, including the Racine Police Department, in accordance with National Fire Protection Association standards. This is done at no cost to any of the requesting agencies. At working fires or other emergencies, the Fire Bells provide water and Gatorade for hydration, food for energy and an environmentally controlled truck during the heat of summer and the cold of winter. Additionally, the Fire Bells work closely with the Red Cross sheltering the victims of an emergency until Red Cross personnel can arrive on the scene of the incident.

The Fire Bells are an IRS-501-C3 federally tax-exempt, not-for-profit group; they are also exempt from sales tax in the State of Wisconsin. The Fire Bells raise their operating funds through donations, periodic fundraisers and Bingo. In addition to assisting area fire and law enforcement agencies with Rehab, the Fire Bells operate Firehouse 3 Museum which is a former Racine fire station, located at 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Grand Avenue.

The Fire Bells current rehab vehicle is a 1991 GMC modular rescue squad which was donated to the group by the Mount Pleasant Fire Department, approximately eight years ago. The vehicle was converted for use as a Rehab truck by the Fire Bells with the assistance of area firefighters. This vehicle has seen better days and has become a significant financial drain on the group due to its age and ongoing maintenance issues. It should be noted that the Fire Bells cover all their own maintenance costs.

This donation will be of significant benefit to the citizens of Racine, as the truck will support Fire Fighting and Emergency Medical Operations at no cost to the community. Furthermore, the rehab truck has always been available to the police department and is occasionally called upon to support their operations. Because this vehicle is in good shape, we anticipate the Fire Bells will get another five to ten years of use from the truck in support of our community.

Thank you for your earnest consideration in this request.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Steve Hansen, Fire Chief