



Racine Fire Department
810 Eighth St, Racine WI 53403

April 29, 2015

15-00392

Honorable Mayor and
Common Council

RE: Bariatric patient handling equipment from RAMAC and Wheaton Franciscan All Saints Foundation

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council,

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 requesting permission to accept the necessary ramps, winches, and hoist equipment from RAMAC and Wheaton Franciscan All Saints Foundation.

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 acceptance of this equipment provides a regional response capability and we will make this resource available to the RAMAC EMS participating departments. Should one of the RAMAC EMS department 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen, Fire Chief