



June 15, 2011

Honorable Mayor
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council:

The Fire Chief is requesting permission to waive formal bidding and direct the purchasing agent to sole-source the acquisition of a fire-fighting foam equipment trailer for the fire department.

The Racine Fire Department, in close cooperation with the City of Milwaukee Fire Department, were successful in securing a 2010 Urban Area Security Initiative grant from the Department of Homeland Security to add a fire-fighting foam equipment trailer for addressing the growing concerns over flammable hazardous materials that are transported through our area on a daily basis. The acceptance of the funding was approved by the Common Council in Resolution 10-2326, on December 21st, 2010, and is for \$45,000 (City Grant Control Number 2010-050). This is a no-match grant and there are no levy dollars involved.

The fire-fighting foam trailer is designed to carry 500 gallons of specialized fire-fighting foam used to battle fires involving hazardous materials which are highly flammable. The trailer will be equipped with two 200-foot sections of 1-3/4" hose lines, one 300-foot section of 2-1/2" hose line and a 500 gallon per minute mounted pre-piped nozzle capable of flowing 500 gallons of mixed water and foam per minute. The hand lines are designed to address the fringe areas of the hazardous spill, while the pre-piped nozzle will sustain the majority of the foam application.

The most common threat to our community and surrounding areas is the large amount of ethanol that is used as a motor vehicle fuel, and the almost 2.5 million gallons of ethanol that is periodically moved through our community by railroad. Ethanol is moved by rail in 50,000-gallon tank cars with approximately 50 tank cars in each train. Ethanol is corrosive to the conventional pipelines which crisscross the area and therefore is moved either via rail or over-the-highway trucks. Of course, there are numerous other hazardous chemicals that are flammable that this trailer will be capable of handling; Ethanol is the most common.

This fire-fighting foam trailer will be made available on a regional basis, similar to what Milwaukee Fire Department will be doing with their trailer. This allows one of the foam trailers to quickly respond to an incident followed up by the second unit giving us the ability to sustain an operation for hours. It should be noted the fire fighting foam trailer will supplement and greatly enhance our existing fire fighting foam capabilities.

Working collaboratively with Milwaukee Fire Department and the City of Milwaukee, we have identified a manufacturer that can provide the required foam fire-fighting trailer that will meet our unique requirements for both cities and come within the funding approved by the Department of Homeland Security, and the Office of Justice Assistance.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Hansen,
Fire Chief