



Racine Fire Department
810 Eighth St, Racine WI 53403

January 25, 2018

Honorable Mayor and
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council,

I would like to request permission to sole source the acquisition of fire station daily uniforms with EmbroidMe of Waukesha, and Red the Tailor of Oak Creek.

As a result of contract negotiations which was concluded with the passage of the 2018-2020 agreement between the City of Racine and Racine Fire Fighters Local 321 the union agreed to terminate the annual clothing allowance and have the City of Racine provide all fire station daily uniforms as part of the agreement. The city will now provide the station uniforms on an annual basis. Station uniforms will be replaced based on a well-established clothing schedule in our Standard Operating Procedures or as clothing becomes worn.

We are requesting permission to sole source with EmbroidMe of Waukesha and Red the Tailor of Oak Creek as the providers of fire station wear. The fire department and members of the department have an extensive long term history with both businesses. EmbroidMe has been providing embroidered shirts, hats, and jackets (station uniforms) to fire department members for 15+ years. Red the Tailor goes way back to the original Badger Uniform, which was located in the River Bend Loft building on Sixth Street many years ago. The advantage of using these two clothing providers is they are local to the community, have always given us highly competitive pricing, and work exceptionally well with us on defective clothing without question. Each business will provide clothing based on their specialty and bulk pricing. We will work closely with the purchasing agent on the acquisition of station uniforms.

Historically the city paid clothing allowance as a separate line item on the payroll checks each January. As such, clothing allowance was treated as income and was taxed as such. This meant the city needed to cover 13.4% of the total for the city's share of the pension cost and an additional 1.45% for the city portion of Social Security. With the change over to the city providing station uniforms there is a cost savings of 15% annually or \$6,000. Once the program is up and fully running we anticipate another 5 to 8 percent savings through bulk purchasing.

Fiscal Note: total estimated cost of the annual clothing purchases between the two vendors is \$40,000 a year.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen, Fire Chief