



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

September 30, 2008

Honorable Mayor and  
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council:

This grant is for Mutual Aid radio communications upgrades for the fire department and fire departments located throughout Racine County. The process of upgrading Fire Services Mutual Aid Communications started in 2005, with a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Fire Act Grant for \$163,000. This grant provided funds for Racine County fire departments to acquire VHF Interoperability radio equipment for use at mutual-aid emergencies.

In 2006, the Racine Fire Department acquired a 2006 Homeland Security/Office of Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$89,000 to begin replacing and upgrading radio equipment for use on all fire and EMS calls in the greater Racine area. This grant for \$253,000 will allow the Racine Fire Department and the Racine County fire departments to complete the upgrading of radio equipment for communications interoperability throughout the area. There is NO MATCH required for this grant.

The Racine Fire Department will administer this grant and have the necessary Memorandums of Understanding signed by all fire departments who participate in this 2008 UASI Grant. Once the radio equipment is acquired and distributed, each fire department receiving radios will be responsible for the maintenance and replacement of that equipment in the future, as if they had purchased the equipment outright.

While the grant is for \$253,000, the City of Racine will significantly benefit from the grant. Radio equipment purchased with the grant will amount to approximately \$90,000, thus saving the citizens of Racine the expense of purchasing this equipment on tax levy down the road. The purchase of this equipment will also allow the Racine Fire Department to jump on board with the Statewide VHF Trunked Radio System (SSMG), once that becomes operational.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen, Fire Chief