



March 11, 2008

Honorable Mayor and
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council:

Racine County is part of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Statistical Area which has been identified by the Department of Homeland Security as one of 39 urban areas in the country slated for additional DHS funding in the 2007-08, grant cycle. This funding is administered by the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance to address emergency response issues throughout the five-county UASI area.

The Racine Fire Department has been included in this initiative as a valued partner in the event of a catastrophic emergency anywhere in the area. What affects one community will ultimately trickle down to surrounding communities. The purpose of this grant is to upgrade numerous systems that are available on our Tactical Command Post to facilitate interoperability with other UASI partners. Those upgrades include the following:

- Upgraded Video and Video recording capabilities (ultra-high resolution and infrared cameras).
- Replace outdated VHS video recording equipment with digital DVR recording equipment.
- Replace outdated TV monitors with LCD monitors.
- Install a Quantar Radio Repeater to facilitate the use of MARC 1 interoperable radio channel at large-scale incidents.
- Install 4.9 GHz Net Mesh communications system, allowing us to interface with other Command Posts in the area. In addition, we will be able to share highly-classified information between the Terrorism Early Warning Center (TEWS), the FBI and other Command Posts as required.
- Install a SMARTBOARD Computerized White Board for Incident Safety planning and resource management.
- Install Rack Chargers for all portable radio equipment and purchase additional spare radio batteries.
- Add additional computer equipment compatible with the security requirements of the TEWS and STAC.
- Install a microwave receiver system that is capable of receiving the raw video feed from news helicopters during emergency incidents.

This \$50,000 grant does not require a match from the City of Racine. The Grant is a reimbursement grant in that we must make the initial purchase and submit the invoices later to recover the costs. We are working with Finance Director Dave Brown, and Asst. Finance Director Kathleen Fischer to determine the best way to initially fund these expenditures.

The Fire Department would be the administrator of the grant.

We sincerely believe this grant will continue to enhance our emergency response capabilities for local and regional emergencies that occur in the area.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen, Fire Chief