



June 3, 2009

Honorable Mayor and
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council:

This request is to apply for Federal Stimulus Funds through the Department of Homeland Security, ARRA Assistance to Fire Fighters Fire Station Construction Grant Program to replace Fire Station 6, which is located at 2101 – 16th Street. We are requesting \$2.5 million dollars from the grant program and the local match will be \$500,000 or 20% of the total cost.

Fire Station 6 was built in 1973 to replace the original fire station located on the same property. The original station was built during the horse drawn era of fire fighting in Racine. Fire Chief Russell Anderson at the time he replaced Fire Station 6 in 1973, recognized the station would need to be moved further south at some point in the future to accommodate growth in the City of Racine. The building was therefore built as a residence with an attached garage for fire and rescue apparatus with the intention that in the future the two buildings could be separated and sold when a replacement fire station was built.

For the last three years, the fire department has been actively pursuing the replacement of Fire Station 6 through a comprehensive planning process that looks at the many variables that must be considered. We realize once a fire station is built, it is generally used by the community for 75 to 100 years before being replaced again. We carefully considered the following issues in arriving at a decision to replace Station 6:

- Emergency response times for both fire and rescue runs
- Anticipated commercial and residential growth
- The impact of the railroad tracks and the concern for significantly greater rail traffic both in heavy freight (coal trains) and passenger (KRM)
- Cooperation with surrounding communities now and in the future
- Anticipated future staffing levels
- Training needs of the fire department
- Storage needs of the fire department (replacing the Quonset Hut/Flooding)

The time is right to replace the existing fire station with one located further south of the present location.

The 2009 ARRA Assistance to Fire Fighters Fire Station Construction Grant is a highly competitive grand application process that will undergo review by fire service peers. DHS has laid out specific criteria to be addressed in the application of the grant. If awarded, the grant performance period is 36 months. A local match (20%) greatly enhances our prospects in the grant application. We recommend that if awarded, the 20% match would then be budgeted under the CIP program, using General Obligation funds. Grant Control Number 2009-028

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen, Fire Chief