



Racine Fire Department
810 Eighth St, Racine WI 53403

June 19, 2015

Honorable Mayor and
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council,

The Fire Department utilizes Motorola two way portable and mobile radios for emergency communications. The radios are fully capable of being upgraded to newer firmware which will extend the life expectancy of the radios for many years. The upgrade is called a "Firmware Flash Upgrade" and consists of reprogramming radio software into our radios.

Part of the new firmware upgrade includes adding a feature known as "Trunking". This trunking capability will allow fire department radios to operate on the statewide interoperability radio system known as WISCOM. This system facilitates emergency interoperability communications between Fire, Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, and the Hospitals for more significant natural or man-made disasters that occur in our community and region.

Baycom is the authorized Motorola dealer for Wisconsin. The firmware upgrade can only come from Motorola as the original manufacturers of our radios. We have planned on this upgrade since purchasing our radios over the last several years and this is a natural extension on the capability of the radios in addition to extending the life expectancy of our radios.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant will be closed out in August of 2015 and therefore we need to finish this upgrade by July 31. There is lead time on ordering of the firmware flash upgrades.

Fiscal Note: Upgrade cost is \$63,000 and 90% of the cost is covered by the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) with a local match of 10% which is available within our current fire department budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen, Fire Chief