



January 30, 2009

Honorable Mayor and
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council:

This is a grant of opportunity which arose in December of 2008. The Port Security Grant is a program from the Department of Homeland Security and is specifically designed to upgrade the capabilities of Fire and Law Enforcement agencies with respect to water related emergencies which may occur within or in adjacent bodies of water throughout Southeast Wisconsin. The Racine Fire Department is a partner in the Racine County Water Rescue Response Team (RCWRRT), which consists of rescue divers and support personnel from eight fire departments, Mount Pleasant Police and Racine County Sheriffs Department. Through a collaborative effort between these agencies, the Racine Fire Department will host the Port Security Grant and insure the proper memorandums of understanding (MOU) which are executed for the acquisition of this equipment. The total grant proposal is \$135,950, of which the Racine Fire Department's portion is \$60,000. Our hard match is 25% or \$15,000, which will be covered with carry-forward funds from the 2008 fire department budget. At the time the 2009 budget was prepared and approved in November of 2008, this grant was not available.

RCWRRT participating agencies will be responsible for signing the MOU and their portion of the hard match to the grant. We do need an account set up to accept the hard match from the participating agencies and to order the equipment against pending reimbursement.

The grant will be used to replace equipment on the Racine Fire Department Water Rescue Team, which is 15+ years old. Many of our dry suits have numerous pinhole leaks, which are becoming more frequent, and our SCUBA systems need to be modernized. While the fire department has been updating equipment as budget funding permits, with recent tight fiscal budgets we have not been successful in securing the additional funds necessary for a complete upgrade in equipment. Here is an opportunity for the federal government to pick up 75% of the cost of replacing our outdated equipment.

From the Port Security Grant Investment Justification:

The following government departments are part of the City of Milwaukee – Port Authority Collaborative. Through the City of Milwaukee (which will execute and monitor contracts), –Department of Administration – Community Development Grants Administration – the following units will support the Milwaukee Collaborative (as well as fully participate in the UASI strategy).

The County of Racine – Fire Department
The City of South Milwaukee – Fire Department
The State of Wisconsin – Department of Natural Resources

The City of Milwaukee will subcontract a total of **\$101,962, with a match from the County of Racine of \$33,988 for a total of \$135,950.** The funds will be used to purchase 16 dry Viking suits at \$2,700 each, 4 scuba assemblies at \$2,000 each, 11 Interspiro Divator Scuba Systems (11 vests, 15 full-face masks, 2 surface supply panels with surface supply hoses) for a total of \$79,100, 10 Float Coats at \$175 each and 10 PFD's at \$120 each. The City of Racine is located about 20 nautical miles south of the City of Milwaukee. It is located within the Milwaukee COTP Zone. The divers associated with the department are currently not appropriately outfitted to have adequate response and recovery capabilities. The Racine diving unit has repeatedly demonstrated their willingness and ability to support other COTP communities whenever required. In addition, the water intake system for the entire community of Racine is in the patrol area of the Racine responder unit. An attack on this system, as well as other vulnerable facilities in the entire COTP area will be attended to by the Racine unit.

Respectfully submitted;

Steve Hansen, Fire Chief