



Racine Fire Department
810 Eighth St, Racine WI 53403

February 1, 2018

Honorable Mayor and
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council,

The Racine Fire Department (RFD) is requesting permission to apply for the Racine Community Foundation/Geiger Foundation grant for the purpose of acquiring a Rescue Utility Task Vehicle. This vehicle is an off road vehicle capable of going over rough, slippery, and challenging terrain.

The fire department began researching rescue UTVs in earnest last year following multiple drowning calls that occurred in Lake Michigan and the Root River. Technical rescue and dive rescue emergencies pose an extraordinary risk to responders and to the public. Access to the shoreline of waterways is often difficult and removing victims to an area of refuge can involve a long distance traverse over unsteady terrain. In most cases, due to their compact size and off-road capabilities, a UTV can be brought much closer to the actual location of a technical/dive emergency than our front line fire apparatus. A UTV can also be used to more easily navigate crowded public events hosted in Racine such as First Fridays, Party on the Pavement, Racine Fourth Fest, and Prom to name a few.

While it is difficult to estimate the number of individuals who will benefit from this project, it is safe to say that everyone in the Racine community has the potential to realize the benefits of a UTV. There are some anticipated measurable outcomes that result from completing this project. Improving the efficiency of RFD emergency operations is a benefit to everyone who lives, works, or plays in Racine; especially when they have an emergency. Reducing the risk of injuries to responders at complicated rescue incident scenes is beneficial to both the responder and the taxpayer.

Fiscal Note: The grant request is for \$25,000. There is no hard match for the grant. Grant number 00169.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen, Fire Chief