



May 27, 2009

Honorable Mayor and
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency Fire Act Grant Program is a highly competitive, annual program that awards grants to fire departments across the nation for the acquisition of emergency preparedness equipment. This grant is two-fold.

Project 1: This is a grant request to provide stationary emergency standby generators at our five outlying fire stations. Currently during a power failure, we use portable generators to provide very basic power needs to the station. All we can run is our communications equipment and overhead doors. The portable generators are not capable of powering the heating systems, nor are they capable of powering refrigeration or basic lighting around the stations. The stationary emergency generators would automatically start in the event of a power failure while providing enough electricity to power the entire station, including the heating system. This is proposed in the 5-year CIP using General Obligation Debt Funds; however, we are looking to fund this project through the Fire Act Grant. The estimated cost for project 1 is \$100,000.

Project 2: This grant request is to provide standardized physical fitness equipment at all six fire stations. Currently, we have non-standard exercise equipment in the fire stations, much of which has been provided by individual firefighters or donated over the years. In 2008, the fire department along with the Fire Fighters Union jointly participated in training nine firefighters as ACE-Certified Peer Fitness Trainers through the International Association of Fire Fighters and the International Association of Fire Chiefs. The purpose of creating and sustaining a Peer Fitness Program is to improve the physical fitness of all the firefighters, thus reducing duty-incurred injuries and also reducing the future medical claims through preventative training.

Many firefighters currently work out during their downtime in the fire stations. This standardized equipment will allow us to better train and monitor the fitness of the firefighters. We will be able to accurately set goals for each firefighter, and measure their progress making adjustments to the training program as needed. The estimated project cost for Project 2 is \$84,000.

The total grant request for both projects is \$184,000. There is a 20% local hard-match if the grant is awarded. The 20% local match will come from the Carry-Forward funds out of the 2009 Budget and a portion will come from our State HazMat Funds (Account 268.000.0000).

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen, Fire Chief