



January 5, 2012

Honorable Mayor
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council:

The Fire Chief is requesting permission to apply for the AFG SAFER Grant to hire back the three fire fighting positions that were eliminated in the 2012 Fire Department budget. The estimated grant would total \$300,000 and would adequately cover the wages and benefits of the proposed positions to be rehired.

What is SAFER? From the SAFER Grant Narrative: "The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) was created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations in order to help them increase the number of trained, "front-line" firefighters available in their communities. The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by the NFPA and OSHA (NFPA 1710 and/or NFPA 1720 and OSHA 1910.134)."

The official grant guidance document has not been released yet; however, we have been advised the grant will be for a three-year period of time and cover 100% of the costs associated with the three firefighting positions. We have also been advised that there should not be any conditions that the fire department continues with the three positions at the conclusion of the grant period.

When dealing with routine structure fires in Racine, North Bay, Elmwood Park and Wind Point, the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1710 states:

Initial Arriving Company:

The fire department's fire suppression resources shall be deployed to provide for the arrival of an engine company within a 240-second travel time to 90 percent of the incidents.

Personnel assigned to the initial arriving company shall have the capability to implement an initial rapid intervention crew (IRIC).

Initial Full-Alarm Assignment Capability:

The fire department shall have the capability to deploy an initial "full alarm assignment" within a 480-second travel time to 90 percent of the incidents.

The initial full-alarm assignment to a structure fire in a typical 2,000 sq. ft. (186 m²), two-story single-family dwelling without basement and with no exposures shall provide for the following:

1. Establishment of incident command outside of the hazard area for the overall coordination and direction of the initial full-alarm assignment with a minimum of one individual dedicated to this task



RACINE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Chief's Office: 262-635-7911

2. Establishment of an uninterrupted water supply of a minimum of 400 gpm (1,520 L/min) for 30 minutes with supply line(s) maintained by an operator
3. Establishment of an effective water flow application rate of 300 gpm (1,140 L/min) from two handlines, each of which has a minimum flow rate of 100 gpm (380 L/min), with each handline operated by a minimum of two individuals to effectively and safely maintain the line
4. Provision of one support person for each attack and backup line deployed to provide hydrant hookup and to assist in laying of hose lines, utility control and forcible entry
5. Provision of at least one victim search and rescue team with each such team consisting of a minimum of two individuals
6. Provision of at least one team, consisting of a minimum of two individuals, to raise ground ladders and perform ventilation
7. If an aerial device is used in operations, one person to function as an aerial operator and maintain primary control of the aerial device at all times.
8. Establishment of an IRIC consisting of a minimum of two properly equipped and trained individuals

As outlined by NFPA 1710 above, the fire department needs a minimum of 16 personnel to initially start fire suppression and rescue operations. Due to budget cuts over the last several years, the fire department's initial response for fire calls is 14 personnel. This is due to the fact that we typically have other emergency calls to handle and also includes the fact that we have cross-staffed Fire Engine and reserve Rescue Companies. When reserve rescue squads are out on medical emergency calls, their companion engine company is "Out of Service" and not available for emergency calls. For 2011, your fire department responded to 9,213 emergency calls for service and made over 14,000 individual emergency response movements to deal with the 9,213 calls for service.

This request is to make the initial application to the program when it becomes available. There will be a 30-day window of opportunity to apply. If we are successful in receiving notification of an award, we will bring the award notice back to the Common Council for acceptance of the grant. If we are successful, that could occur later this fall.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen,
Fire Chief