



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

June 15, 2011

Honorable Mayor
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council:

The Fire Chief is requesting permission to apply to the SC Johnson Wax Fund for a grant to complete the fire department radio infrastructure communications upgrade project.

We are requesting grant-funding support from the SC Johnson Wax Fund to complete a radio infrastructure equipment upgrade project throughout the Greater Racine area, in support of Racine, Caledonia and South Shore Fire Departments. The request is for a grant up to \$100,000, with no financial match. This supplemental financial support will be added to the current funding available for this radio project under the Capital Improvement section of the 2011 City Budget.

When estimating costs for the fire department radio infrastructure project in the summer of 2010, in preparation for the 2011 budget, we have found that the estimates we received last summer were on the low side. Those estimates were acquired for planning purposes. Recently, in the last several months after the 2011 budget was approved, there have been increases in equipment and installation costs.

This grant from the SC Johnson Wax Fund will allow us to complete the fire department radio infrastructure communications upgrade project and will allow all three fire departments, east of Interstate 94, to communicate with each other on a common radio frequency band (VHF), and allow for significantly improved inter-agency cooperation. Over the last five years, we have written numerous grants that provided mobile and handheld radios in the field, and the last piece of the puzzle is to complete the infrastructure project.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Hansen,
Fire Chief