

CITY OF APPLETON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



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MEMORANDUM

September 2, 2022

To: Finance Committee, Safety & Licensing Committee and Common Council
From: Jeremy Hansen, Fire Chief
Cc: Ryan Weyers, Deputy Fire Chief
Re: Request to Accept Paramedic Training Grant

The Appleton Fire Department (AFD) is requesting approval to accept an Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) in the amount of \$192,088.20.

Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders obtain critically needed resources necessary for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards. The AFG supports training emergency personnel, enhancing efficiencies, and supporting community resilience. This grant opportunity places a high priority on upgrading medical service levels in the community. While other grants exist, the AFG is unique and essential to offset tuition and the large cost of staffing backfill that ensures essential fire protection and medical response capability is maintained during the training.

The City of Appleton is responsible for a 10% match, or roughly \$19,208.80, bringing the total project cost to \$211, 297.00. The AFD will utilize its current overtime budget to cover the required match.

In 2021, the AFD responded to 6,841 calls for service. Requests for service included fire suppression, vehicle accidents and extrication, water rescue, heavy technical rescue, hazardous materials, and medical incidents. In 2021, a total of 5,180 were for medical emergencies. Emergency medical services (EMS) response accounts for 76% of the fire department's calls for service. Between 2018 and 2021, there was a 27% increase in total call volume, which includes a 35% increase in medical emergencies. While the Fire Department provides response to all medical emergencies within the city limits, AFD is one of only three career fire departments in the State of Wisconsin that does not provide paramedic level services.

The Fire Department requested grant funding to support tuition and backfill costs that will be incurred from sending six employees to an instructor-led paramedic training program in the fall of 2023. The AFD has a strong desire to provide the community an exceptional pre-hospital experience by upgrading our medical response capabilities from Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) to Paramedic in the near future.

The paramedic engine concept will upgrade the existing fire apparatus to the paramedic level. This will provide improved level of pre-hospital care to the community without adding staff. The paramedic engine concept meets the

need for rapid delivery of advanced life support (ALS) medical care, and will lower the time from incident dispatch to the first ALS intervention on approximately 5,000 medical emergencies each year. Additionally, a fire-based paramedic program will improve safety during all daily activities, including emergency incidents and the training ground, as trained and equipped paramedics can provide immediate life-saving care to all firefighters, law enforcement, and first responders. This project will enhance the life safety for the 75,644 residents within the City of Appleton and upwards of 250,000 residents in the neighboring communities with the help of our automatic-aid and mutual aid agreements.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (920) 832-5810. Thank you for your consideration.

