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MEMORANDUM

TO: Town of Beloit Board of Supervisors

FROM: Daniel Pease

RE: Consideration of Approving a Grant application through Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for firefighting foam and a brush truck wench

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approves this resolution.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move to approve the grant funding through the Department of Natural Resources to secure the 50% cost-share grant for firefighting foam and a brush truck wench.

BACKGROUND

Aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) is a type of foam used to fight fires for the past 30 years. Fire departments use AFFF to fight liquid-based fires (i.e., those started by oil, gasoline, or other flammable liquids).

AFFF is highly concerning because it contains PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). PFAS are toxic chemicals known to negatively impact human health and do not easily break down in the environment, waterways, wildlife, or human bodies. PFAS are linked to negative health impacts in humans, including cancer. AFFF is the leading cause of PFAS contamination in drinking water.

AFFF carried by the Town of Beloit fire department has been designated as a carcinogen and banned by the EPA and Wisconsin DNR. This grant will allow for a 50% cost share of safe firefighting foam in addition to the purchase of a brush truck wench. The total amount of the grant is \$3,260.96 and the Town's share would be \$1,630.48.

ANALYSIS

Forest Fire Protection (FFP) 50% cost-share grants are available to Wisconsin fire departments and county/area fire associations. Grant funding is intended to expand the use of local fire departments to augment and strengthen the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) overall initial-attack fire suppression capabilities on brush and forest fires.

CC: Tim Wellnitz, Town Administrator
Karry DeVault, Town Clerk