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MEMORANDUM

03/04/2024

TO: Town of Beloit Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Daniel Pease, Fire Chief  
RE: Discussion and possible action authorizing the Town of Beloit Fire Department to apply for Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) for an Exhaust Capturing System

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Board authorize a grant application through AFG for an exhaust capturing system for Fire Stations 1 & 2. If awarded, there would be a 5% match for the Town. The Town is seeking \$221,343.00 in grant funding, which the Town would be responsible for 5% (\$11,067.15).

**RECOMMENDED MOTION**

I move to authorize the requested grant application for an exhaust capturing system for Fire stations 1 & 2.

**BACKGROUND**

Fire safety grants fund critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel, enhance efficiencies and support community resilience. Assistance to Firefighters Grant has helped firefighters and other first responders obtain critically needed resources necessary for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards. NFPA 1500: Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program specifies that fire departments contain all vehicle exhaust emissions to a level of no less than 100 percent of effective capture. This recommendation also complies with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) requirement to reduce emissions to the lowest feasible level to limit impact on firefighters' health.

**ANALYSIS**

1. Firefighters are exposed to carcinogens and toxic chemicals during interior structural fire suppression activities. Safety measures have been instituted to reduce these exposures through the use of PPE and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Another area of exposure risk occurs daily at the fire station through exposure to diesel engine exhaust emissions.
2. The World Health Organization first designated diesel exhaust emissions as a carcinogen in 1998.
3. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) states workers exposed to diesel exhaust face the risk of health effects ranging from irritation of the eyes and nose, headaches and nausea, to respiratory disease and lung cancer.
4. The International Building Code specifically addresses the need for fire departments to invest in a diesel exhaust source capture system that connects directly to the motor vehicle exhaust system.

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