



FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Steven Howard, Acting Chief
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May 24, 2016

Mr. Joe Pieper, Chairman
Finance Committee
1011 W. Glenn Drive
Waukesha, WI 53188

**SUBJECT: DONATION OF 1931 PIRSCH FIRE ENGINE
FORMERLY OWNED BY THE CITY OF WAUKESHA**

Dear Chairman Pieper:

The Fire Department is seeking approval from the Finance Committee and Common Council to accept the donation of a 1931 Pirsch fire engine originally purchased by the City of Waukesha in December of 1930. This vehicle is also powered by a Waukesha Engine originally manufactured in the city by the Waukesha Motor Works Company. The vehicle is currently owned by Daniel Carstens, a former City of Waukesha Firefighter and local business owner. Mr. Carstens is an amateur historian who has worked to preserve the history of the City of Waukesha Fire Department. Mr. Carsten's generous donation provides the Department and the City with a unique opportunity to preserve a part of our heritage.

Attached is a Donation Agreement drafted by the City Attorney's Office and reviewed by Mr. Carstens. It is difficult to place a value on the vehicle; however, a rough estimate of its current value would be between \$7,000 and \$13,000. I've also had an opportunity to speak with our insurance representatives and have been advised that accepting this donation will have no impact on our current insurance rates.

Recently, the Fire Department and Common Council approved the establishment of a Historic Preservation Fund. The maintenance and future restoration of this vehicle will be funded using donated funds from this account. No taxpayer or operational money will be used to maintain or restore this vehicle.

The acceptance of this donation will not impact Fire Department operations or the level of service being provided to the community. The Fire Department is in the process of establishing a Historic Preservation Committee and has volunteers who have offered to work on the preservation and restoration of this vehicle.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I will be present the evening of the Finance Committee Meeting to answer any additional questions.



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Sincerely,

Steve Howard, Acting Chief

attachments

