



RAPID CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Prepare, Prevent, Protect



To: Mayor Sam Kooiker

From: Jason Culberson

Subject: Western Dakota Paramedic Program

Date: 12/17/2012

In 2013 we have been presented a terrific opportunity by Western Dakota Tech. They have offered to provide customized training for our Department. The training consists of sending eight (8) current Firefighter Medics to Paramedic class at a significant cost reduction.

Since 2003 we have provided Paramedic level ambulance service to the City of Rapid City and since that time we have had an ever increasing need for Paramedics. Several years ago we recognized the need and began to recruit Paramedics as well as train our own staff to fulfill this need. Every year for the past 3 years we have sent our Firefighter Medics to a program at Western Dakota Tech to receive the training to become a Paramedic.

This year Western Dakota Tech has proposed providing a Paramedic class to train eight (8) of our current employees. The training is at a reduced rate and we get a customized class designed for our needs while complying with all current Federal, State, and Local rules and regulations. In the past we have sent four (4) of our Firefighters to the program at a cost of approximately \$20,000 plus books and fees (\$5,000/student). The proposed class is eight (8) students for \$30,000 plus books and fees (\$3,750/student).

The training will allow our department to make a significant stride forward in reaching our goal of a Paramedic at each fire station throughout the City every shift. The Ambulance Enterprise fund has budgeted \$20,000 (plus books and fees) in 2013 to send Firefighters to Paramedic school. We also, just recently, received a monetary donation/grant from a private couple in the amount of \$10,070 to provide Paramedic level training to Department staff. What this means is we have a funding mechanism in place for this training.

I respectfully request that the proposal be signed and we move forward with this excellent opportunity. It is not only good for the Department; it is good for the Community.