

**MICHAEL P. ORTNER**

LAWYER  
P.O. BOX 629  
HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA 57747-0629  
PHONE # (605) 745-6415  
FAX # (605) 745-6416

LF033104-07

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Gary Shepherd  
Rapid City Fire Department Chief  
#10 Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

Dear Mr. Shepherd:

As we discussed recently on the telephone, Fall River County is in the process of setting up its own search and rescue unit as well as dive recovery team. In the next month or so we will have a number of divers taking the dive, rescue and recovery training from Mike Penticoff of Mick's Scuba Center in Rapid City.

For many years, the Hot Springs Fire Department provided this service for Fall River County but will no longer be doing this. We have never had a search and rescue truck to this date. It has come to my attention that Rapid City has approximately a 1979 ambulance that was used for many years as the search and rescue unit there in the fire department, which has now been replaced by a new unit. My understanding is that Rapid City intends to surplus this unit and any consideration that the City of Rapid City would give to turning this unit over to Fall River County would be most sincerely appreciated by all of the citizens of Fall River County. We do not have a lot of funds available at this time but would certainly try to come up with whatever funding would be required.

Respectfully submitted,



MICHAEL P. ORTNER  
Chairman  
Fall River County Commission

MPO:pw

pc: Mayor Oberlitner