



Hermosa Volunteer Fire Department



Mayor Hanks and City Council;

The Hermosa Volunteer Fire Department is requesting two Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) from the Rapid City Department of Fire and Emergency Services. The Rapid City Department of Fire and Emergency Services has purchased new AEDs and currently have surplus older model AEDs available. These older model AEDs are identical to the one we have now and are still in good working order.

The need for this equipment has been identified through an annual planning program the Hermosa Volunteer Fire Department has instituted for reviewing and prioritizing needs of the department. A substantial amount of the fire department's service population resides in single-family homes which have been constructed in the Ponderosa Pine forest of the Black Hills. More new homes are being constructed in these scenic areas every year as spill-over development from Rapid City occurs. The residential development in the Black Hills poses significant challenges to the fire department due to the combination of scattered development, longer response times, steep topography and high wildland fire hazard conditions. Due to the increasing number of residences within the forest, the fire department has had to make substantial investments in all three programs including structure protection, EMS, and wildland firefighting capability due to the urban interface. These challenges are universal among other departments across the country but which constitute a significant ongoing financial impact on the department's budget.

Currently as I mentioned earlier we have one AED that we move between three apparatus to make sure we have it when an emergency call comes in. With the addition of two more AEDs we would be able to maintain an AED on all three apparatus and not move them from truck to truck. It would allow us to have multiple incidents ongoing and an AED available at the different locations. One instance would be the recent flood we had. We had multiple units spread throughout our district to search and check on survivors. If someone would have needed our assistance precious minutes would have been lost waiting for the unit carrying the AED to arrive where needed. Thankfully that night we made it through that horrible tragedy without losing a life.



Hermosa Volunteer Fire Department



We would like to thank the city for the help it has given to us in the past and continue to look forward to working with the city in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Johnson". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Johnson

Chief

Hermosa Volunteer Fire Department