



**Board of Police and Fire Commissioners**

October 23, 2013

City of West Allis  
Dan Devine, Mayor  
Thomas G. Lajsic, Common Council President  
Members, West Allis Common Council  
7525 W. Greenfield Avenue  
West Allis, WI 53214

**COMMISSIONERS**

Joseph F. Kempen  
*President*  
Kevin Haass  
*Vice-President*  
Wayne B. Clark  
*Secretary*  
Donald R. Nehmer  
Harold Mester

Dear Mayor Devine, President Lajsic and members of the West Allis Common Council,

This communication is to request consideration regarding the Fire Department Budget as presented to the Administration and Finance Committee of the West Allis Common Council.

Earlier this year the West Allis Common Council and the West Allis Board of Police and Fire Commissioners held a joint meeting to discuss the Command Staff at the Fire Department. This meeting was held in light of the vacant Fire Chief position to discuss potential restructuring cost saving opportunities that may exist. At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed that West Allis would retain the existing Chief structure for the Protective Service Departments within the City. We also agreed to review the Command Staff at the Fire Department.

It was our intent to develop the budget proposal with the assistance of the new Fire Chief. Unfortunately this process was extended and the budget, meeting the guidelines proposed by the Mayor and Common Council, was developed prior to the selection of the new Chief and was presented to the Administration and Finance Committee using the existing command staff positions. In an attempt to remain within the budget constraints provided by the Mayor and Common Council, the capital budget as proposed will fall short in meeting the needs of the department given the age of our current equipment. Constraints in prior budget have already resulted in our extending our capital equipment purchase plan. We are already experiencing increasing maintenance costs to keep the existing equipment operating correctly.

With the above in mind and to provide the maximum flexibility to the incoming new Chief regarding positioning his command staff, we are proposing the following change to the budget as originally presented.

Reduce the Fire Department Command Staff by one position at the Battalion Chief level.  
Apply the savings from this position reduction along with the associated budgeted fringe benefits to the capital account.

Currently we have an opening at the Battalion Chief level so this change can be accomplished without displacing any individual. Furthermore the equivalent amount outlined in addition to the currently budgeted capital amount would approximate the annual amount required going forward to meet our annual Capital Budget needs.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions regarding this request.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Kempen, President  
West Allis Board of Police and Fire Commissioners

CC: City Administrative Officer Paul Ziehler