



# HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

### Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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1. The sponsoring representative's first name:  
Mike
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:  
Harris
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.  
Rep. Brenda Carter (District 53)
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
Charter Township of Waterford- Regional Fire Department
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
5200 Civic Center Dr. Waterford, MI 48329
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:  
3995 W. Walton Blvd. Waterford, MI 48329- Township owns vacant land where fire station will be constructed
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:  
Mike Harris, District 52
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution. This request seeks funding for the construction of a modern regional fire station to replace an aging and obsolete facility that has served the community for over 70 years. Located in the northeast corner of Waterford Township, this new station will serve as a first-response hub for the residents of Waterford Township, the City of Pontiac, and the City of Lake Angelus, as well as surrounding mutual aid communities. The existing station—built nearly 73 years ago—is no longer safe or functional. It is

currently staffed 24/7/365 by four firefighters, housing one fire engine and one advanced life support (ALS) ambulance. However, the facility's critical infrastructure systems—including the foundation, structural components, HVAC, plumbing, and electrical—are severely deteriorated and beyond their useful life. This creates an unsafe environment for the dedicated personnel who operate from this station and limits their ability to respond effectively to emergencies.

The replacement of this outdated facility is not simply a matter of convenience—it is a public safety imperative. The new regional fire station will be designed to meet the operational demands of a 21st-century fire service and will:

- Provide faster, more reliable emergency response to a growing and diverse regional population.
- Improve firefighter safety and readiness with a facility built to modern health, safety, and efficiency standards.
- Strengthen mutual aid capacity by supporting surrounding jurisdictions during large-scale emergencies or resource shortages.
- Protect life and property more effectively through improved logistics, equipment housing, and communications infrastructure.
- Build long-term community resilience by reinforcing the public's trust in its emergency response systems and showing a proactive investment in essential services.

This is a sound, responsible use of taxpayer dollars—an investment that will yield measurable benefits in lives saved, property protected, and stronger regional collaboration for decades to come.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

5800000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["None"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Local unit government

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Not applicable

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Not applicable

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Not applicable

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

N/A

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

January 2, 2026- June 30, 2027

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes



## PROCLAMATION

### In Support of Requesting \$10 Million for a New Fire Station for the Waterford Regional Fire Department

WHEREAS, Fire Station 2 was built in 1952 and is about 73 years old, with minimal updates over the years. At the time it was built, many of the current building codes were not in place. There are three platoons with four men per platoon working 24-hour shifts, 7 days per week, that occupy this station. This project is shovel-ready and would take between one to two years to complete.

WHEREAS, this Fire Station serves surrounding communities, including the cities of Pontiac, Lake Angelus, and Waterford Township. Waterford Township is the fifth-largest township in Michigan and the largest township in Oakland County. It serves the Oakland County International Airport, which is 2<sup>nd</sup> to Detroit Metro Airport for inbound and outbound flights.

WHEREAS, Waterford Township has avoided updating this Fire Station because the plan for the last 10 years has been to build a new station. To continue to provide a safe environment for our Firefighters to work and live in, building a new station has become an urgent situation.

WHEREAS, Waterford Township removed asbestos throughout the building and added an addition in 2009, however, it is still outdated without separate sleeping quarters and bathroom facilities for men and women. There is one usable shower for four men to use. It is not ADA compliant. There was no EMS (Emergency Medical Service) at the time it was built, and storage for these supplies is not adequate. The laundry facilities need to be larger to accommodate the equipment.

WHEREAS, Newer fire trucks are slightly larger than older fire trucks, which causes less space on each side of the trucks and makes maintenance difficult. The garage doors are creeping down after opening them and caused damage to one of the trucks as it was being backed into the garage. The workout area is next to the Fire Truck garage, with open walls allowing exhaust fumes to flow into the workout area. The boiler is from 1973, making it 52 years old.

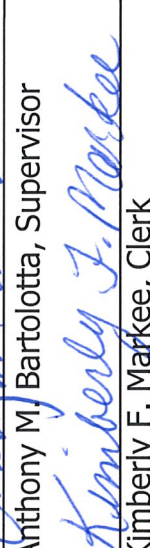
WHEREAS, Waterford Township appreciates the revenue-sharing the State has provided over the years. For the last 10 years, the average amount received was \$6.6 million. If the dollars were adjusted for inflation, the amount would be \$13.2 million instead of \$6.6 million. Without revenue sharing increasing at the same rate as inflation, it makes it difficult to save for a new Fire Station.

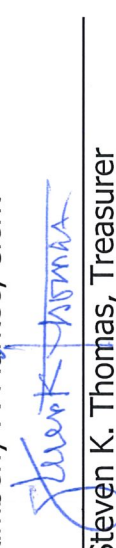
WHEREAS, the cost for the new station is \$11,632,861, and Waterford Township will contribute \$1,632,861, which is 14% of the cost, and Waterford already owns the property.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Charter Township of Waterford recognizes the importance of providing fire services to our residents and the surrounding communities. Waterford Township hereby respectfully requests that the State of Michigan financially assist Waterford Township with \$10 million to build a safe new fire station that will last for another 73-plus years.

Proclaimed on this 14th day of April 2025.

  
Anthony M. Bartolotta, Supervisor

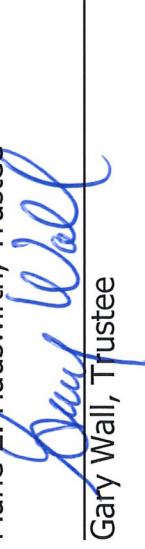
  
Kimberly F. Markoe, Clerk

  
Steven K. Thomas, Treasurer

  
Jeff Gilbert, Trustee

  
Sam Harris, Trustee

  
Marie E. Hauswirth, Trustee

  
Gary Wall, Trustee



Charter Township of Waterford, Michigan  
Waterford Regional Fire Department

State of Michigan, Legislative Directed Spending Request

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## WATERFORD REGIONAL FIRE STATION #2 CONSTRUCTION PROJECT



Submitted by:

Charter Township of Waterford,  
Anthony Bartolotta, Supervisor  
April 23, 2025

## **PURPOSE OF THIS REQUEST**

The Charter Township of Waterford is requesting State of Michigan financial assistance to build a new regional fire station #2 in Northeast corner of the Township for the protection of residents in Waterford Township, the City of Pontiac and City of Lake Angelus as first response. This new building will replace a 73-year-old obsolete fire station.

New fire station designs and cost estimates have been prepared and this project is truly shovel ready. Total cost for construction is \$11.6 million. We are asking for \$10 million from the State of MI for this regional project. Waterford Township would be matching at \$1.6 Million or approximately 14% and owns the vacant property. Of course, if the Appropriations Committee considers an amount lower than our funding request, we will accept and be thankful for that.

## **CAPABILITIES**

Waterford Regional Fire Department and its 110 firefighters and paramedics respond to fire, EMS, Hazmat, Technical Rescue and other emergency service calls in Waterford Township, the City of Pontiac, the City of Lake Angelus, and the mutual aid communities all around Oakland County. WRFD operates out of 9 stations spread throughout Waterford Township and the City of Pontiac, covering 60 square miles. The population in our first response area is 135,000. This station is a border fire station with the City of Pontiac, making this station a second to respond and sometimes first to respond to the NW corner of the City of Pontiac, even into downtown Pontiac and the City of Lake Angelus.

Waterford Regional Fire Department has the capabilities and has been called to our mutual aid response area throughout Oakland County. Through the Michigan MABAS system and our OAKWAY mutual aid agreement, WRFD responded to 94 mutual aid calls in 2024. WRFD stands ready when called to respond to emergency requests throughout the State of MI. WRFD responded to nearly 15,200 emergency calls in total for 2024. 1,700 of those calls were in this old station's area. Further there were nearly 3,900 responses combined between the

ambulance and the engine that responded from that station. Demand for emergency services is increasing every year. We are a paramedic providing regional fire department and a teaching department. We have basic EMT and paramedic students from all around the state participating in clinical hands-on ride time on a regular basis. New doctors and nurses do clinical ride time as well.

WRFD protects critical State of MI infrastructure including the Oakland County International Airport (2<sup>nd</sup> busiest in the state to DTW for take-off and landings), The Buckeye Petroleum Pipeline, CN Railway, the USPS Metroplex, Oakland County Government complex including the 911 center, circuit courthouse, OC Jail, and many other essential service facilities at the County complex. Three hospitals with over 1100 beds, and many miles of MDOT roadway including M-59 and US-24. Defense contractor, Williams International and United Wholesale Mortgage, the largest mortgage lender in the United States, have their headquarters in our jurisdiction. An 823,000 square foot Amazon Fulfillment Center with more than 1,200 employees, General Motors has several facilities with over 1,500 employees complemented by multiple Tier 1 auto suppliers, the 1775 National Guard MP HQ, M1-Concourse and the Woodward Dream Cruise are all located here.

### **PROBLEM STATEMENT:**

The current fire station is nearly 73 years old. This is an obsolete and inefficient fire station that cannot live up to the standards of a regional fire department today. Currently it is staffed with four firefighters 24/7/365, with one engine and one ALS ambulance. The physical condition of the building: structure, foundation, plumbing, heating and cooling, electrical are all failing, and at their end of useful life, getting to a point of being unsafe for the firefighters and paramedics that work in this building. Asbestos, mold and lead were found in the station in 2023. Most of the asbestos was removed in 2024.

Several problems exist in the current fire station.

1. Fire station built in 1952 has been too small and inadequate for the last 25 years. It does not meet the needs for a regional fire department.

2. Impossible to fit the needed 6-8 firefighters in this building.
3. No restroom/locker room or changing facilities for female firefighters.
4. EMS service requires more daily manpower than was needed in 1952.
5. Foundational cracks and water seepage problems in the basement.
6. Environmental testing showed the presence of lead, asbestos, and mold in this station.
7. Inadequate and inefficient HVAC, plumbing, and electrical utilities in the entire fire station.
8. The boiler unit is over 50 years old and was installed in 1973.
9. Sewer drains have to be snaked out regularly to keep this station operational.
10. One bathroom/shower is working currently for the staff. The other hasn't worked in a very long time.
11. Inadequate storage of fire gear for carcinogen consideration.
12. Inadequate laundry facilities
13. No EMS supplies storage room, because there was no EMS when this Station was built.
14. Inadequate station supplies storage.
15. Fire engine barely fit into the door frame. The garage door creeps down, and recently caused damage to the truck and the door while backing it in.
16. Cannot place an aerial truck in the station as planned.
17. The inadequate and improper exercise/fitness room in the truck bay is open to exhaust fumes.

An addition decades ago, another small addition, and a new roof installed in 2009 was a "band-aid" to keep from closing the building caused by a continuous leaking roof. Two years ago, we did an assessment with a trusted local construction company. Words used in their report for the building systems were: ***very low efficiency, mold, lead, and asbestos present, expensive to operate and maintain, has met and exceeded its life expectancy, undersized, not sufficient, broken, rusting, cost-prohibitive to replace equipment, and beyond repair.***

We do not believe that it is fiscally responsible to put any more money into the maintenance of this building, given all the obsolete systems. Simply, this building is becoming a safety hazard and will not house the current or future staffing in the proper manner necessary to operate a modern regional fire station.



**The current Fire Station #2 built in 1952.**

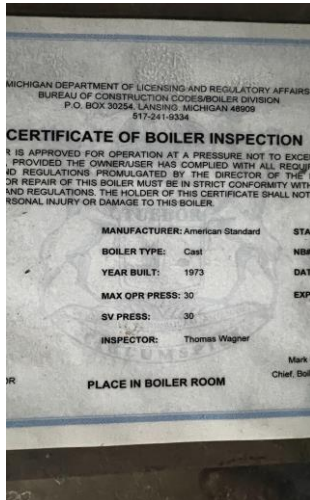
Pictures do not tell the whole story, but we are hopeful these help to justify the need for a new fire station.

**Foundational/Structural issues shown here**





## HVAC is inefficient and antiquated:



This is the boiler that was installed in 1973, and is 52 years old.

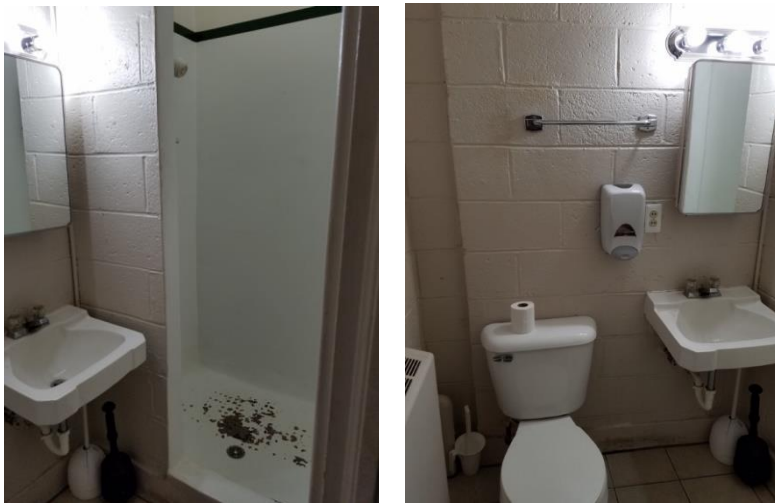
## Electrical Problems include undersized and overloaded panels, rusty, broken boxes, and insufficient lighting:



**Plumbing and drain dysfunctional and too small for today's standards:**



**No female shower/restroom or locker facilities:**



**Dorm room Open to all staff. No female changing area:**



**No room in the current station. Fire Gear, fitness equipment, EMS Supplies, laundry facilities in the apparatus room.**



**Room A/C used for cooling living quarters:**



### **SOLUTION:**

A new regional fire station solves all of these problems. All of the up-to-date features needed for a fire station in the 21st century will be realized. Modern construction materials and technical components are all necessary to create a new building that will last 75+ years, as the original fire station has.

WRFD provides Advanced EMS Paramedics, Fire, and other diverse emergency services to the residents in our jurisdiction and our Mutual Aid partners across Oakland County. With an increased demand for emergency services, this project



is essential for our staff to provide the very best for all our residents, including our most vulnerable seniors and children, in addition to low- to moderate-income residents. The importance of this project cannot be overstated.

Several years ago, we obtained a piece of property at zero cost to the Township by trading another piece of land with the Waterford School District. In 2024, we hired an engineering firm. They have worked with our fire department to create a vision for this station and even a future build for another fire station replacement. This engineering incorporates the latest in fire station construction and considers the needs today and into the future.



The proposed project includes construction of a new fire station; a one story, 14,000 square foot structure, including the apparatus (truck) bay, locker room/dorms and full bathrooms with female facilities, proper fitness room, kitchen, living, dining, , office space and training room necessary to keep up with modern fire stations. A room to wash soiled fire gear, as we know that after a fire, carcinogens are present in our gear. Once that gear is clean, it will be off to the

clean storage room. Proper EMS and station supply storage rooms; vital to cleanliness and safety for our firefighters and paramedics. Moreover, energy-efficient lighting, electricity, plumbing, and HVAC will have an impact on future expenses and maintenance for this new building. The property will allow for future expansion if needed, including space for a training tower and possibly a truck maintenance facility.



This new regional fire station will have the necessary components to keep not only Waterford, Pontiac, and Lake Angelus residents safe but our mutual aid communities as well. WRFD stands at the ready to provide services in and around all of Oakland County, the entire Metro Detroit region, and all around the State of Michigan as needed.



## **FINANCIAL NEED:**

Waterford Township has been struggling to regain a good financial footing after the 2008 Great Recession. Amid that chaos, projects were deferred, personnel benefits were cut, and OPEB had to be funded. Our financial books are finally looking better, but that recession has made it difficult to keep up. It was estimated way back in the early 2010s that 2030 would be our catch-up year, and we are just 5 years away. Things are trending up, but we need assistance, which is why we have come to our State Legislators for funding assistance.

These three bullet points below demonstrate where Waterford residents stand with income and home values in comparison to all Oakland County communities. This also demonstrates why State funding is essential for this project. Lastly, it shows why residents currently have an obsolete, decaying fire station, which is nearly 73 years old.

- Household income is \$20,000 below the median Household income.
- Per Capita Income is \$10,000 below the Per Capita Income.
- Median House Value is \$68,000 below the Median Housing Value.

Waterford has 6 public safety (Police and Fire) millages, including a Special Assessment. We are near the top of the charts for millage rates on our residents, just behind Bloomfield Township.

The State of Michigan's assistance on this project works for the financial good of our low- and moderate-income community members, many of whom are elderly. The investment amount that the Legislature is willing to allocate will bring down costs considerably for the residents of Waterford.

Looking just at the Fire Department's current needs, WRFD needs an additional \$2 million annually for additional staffing to keep up with the demand for services, including 15 new firefighter positions, a full-time training officer, a full-time EMS coordinator, and a full-time Public Education Officer. We also have 2 other fire stations that are at the 50-year-old mark and are in dire need of replacement as well. Similar to the station we are proposing to replace in this application, firefighters are crowded into those two stations. One of those stations has one toilet, one shower, and no female facilities. Further, the truck bays are extremely

overcrowded with fitness equipment, fire gear next to the truck, a lack of storage, and so many other issues. Additionally, WRFD must replace one fire engine and one ambulance per year at a cost of nearly 1.5 million annually, just to keep up with run volume. We currently have a 35-year-old, 100 Tower Truck that needs replacement. The cost for that is over \$2 million.

### **BREAKDOWNS OF PROJECT COSTS:**

Construction costs for a new regional fire station are \$11,632,861.

- 4,740,213 – new construction

- 447,740 – equipment and furniture

- 196,825 – Plumbing

- 1,011,250 – HVAC

- 943,000 – Electrical

- 104,563 – Technology

- 413,337 – Earthwork

- 399,450 – Public utilities

- 1,558,151 – Contingency

- 1,818,332 – Construction, civil, and design fees, liability insurance

### **COST BENEFIT**

This new regional fire station will be a tremendous asset to the residents of SE Michigan and the state, as it will be ready to serve for 73+ years. At an estimated 73 years of service, the \$10 million investment by the State of MI, brings the cost to \$136,986 per year of service or \$375 per day. Considering the population of MI at 10,000,000 and a 73-year life, the cost per MI resident is very minimal at \$.01 per resident over the life of the building. Using the 135,000 population that we serve in Waterford, Pontiac and Lake Angelus, and considering a useful life of 73 years, that shows a minimal cost of \$1.01 cost per person served, which does not

even account for mutual aid population around Oakland County and SE Michigan. This project is very cost effective over the life of this new fire station.

New building systems with new construction will not require the costly repairs and replacement that the Township has to absorb currently. This is a tremendous cost savings with this project.

### **FINAL COMMENTS**

We have engaged our State legislators for their support of this project, including Representatives Mike Harris, Brenda Carter and Senators Jim Runestad and Jeremy Moss. The Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved a resolution supporting this project and this legislative request. We also have overwhelming support from our mutual aid members, Waterford Firefighter Local #1335, our contracted Cities (Pontiac and Lake Angelus), SEMCOG, the Local Commissioner from Oakland County, and the Waterford Chamber of Commerce. Letters of Support are sent as separate attachments.

The Charter Township of Waterford can manage this construction project. We have managed the construction of police, fire, and DPW facilities in the last 25 years, from start to finish, with appropriate financial processes in place.

We manage our own fresh drinking water delivery system and sewer system, serving our 73,000 residents, including the Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area.

We have managed multi-million-dollar grants and other external funding sources in the recent past as well. Our finance staff is externally audited annually as required by law and receives A+ audit ratings every year.

We are thankful to our legislators for representing the Waterford, Pontiac and the Lake Angelus region. We thank you for your review of this proposal. We hope that you have recognized the need for a new station and the long-term cost benefit recognized throughout this request.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Township Supervisors' office on 248.674.6201.



5200 Civic Center Drive

Waterford, Michigan 48329-3773

Telephone: (248) 674-3111

[www.waterfordmi.gov](http://www.waterfordmi.gov)

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## **Waterford Township Board of Trustees 2025**

Waterford Township Supervisor – Anthony Bartolotta

Waterford Township Clerk – Kim Markee

Waterford Township Treasurer – Steve Thomas

Waterford Township Trustee – Gary Wall

Waterford Township Trustee – Jeff Gilbert

Waterford Township Trustee – Marie Hauswirth

Waterford Township Trustee – Sam Harris



## **PROCLAMATION**

### **In Support of Requesting \$10 Million for a New Fire Station for the Waterford Regional Fire Department**

WHEREAS, Fire Station 2 was built in 1952 and is about 73 years old, with minimal updates over the years. At the time it was built, many of the current building codes were not in place. There are three platoons with four men per platoon working 24-hour shifts, 7 days per week, that occupy this station. This project is shovel-ready and would take between one to two years to complete.

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WHEREAS, Waterford Township has avoided updating this Fire Station because the plan for the last 10 years has been to build a new station. To continue to provide a safe environment for our Firefighters to work and live in, building a new station has become an urgent situation.

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WHEREAS, the cost for the new station is \$11,632,861, and Waterford Township will contribute \$1,632,861, which is 14% of the cost, and Waterford already owns the property.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Charter Township of Waterford recognizes the importance of providing fire services to our residents and the surrounding communities. Waterford Township hereby respectfully requests that the State of Michigan financially assist Waterford Township with \$10 million to build a safe new fire station that will last for another 73-plus years.

**Proclaimed on this 14th day of April 2025**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony M. Bartolotta, Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Gilbert, Trustee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kimberly F. Markee, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sam Harris, Trustee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven K. Thomas, Treasurer

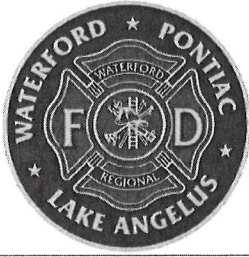
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marie E. Hauswirth, Trustee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Wall, Trustee

**This Proclamation was presented and unanimously approved at the**

**April 14, 2025 meeting of the Waterford Township Board of Trustees.**

The signed copy of this resolution is another attachment.



# WATERFORD REGIONAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

2495 Crescent Lake Road • Waterford, MI 48329

Phone: 248.673.0405 • Fax: 248.674.4095

[www.waterfordmi.gov](http://www.waterfordmi.gov)

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**Matthew Nye, Fire Chief • Carl Wallace, Deputy Fire Chief • Gene Butcher, Fire Marshal**

**Fire Chief Matthew Nye**

Waterford Regional Fire Department

2495 Crescent Lake Road

Waterford, MI 48329

(248) 618-6607

[mnye@waterfordmi.gov](mailto:mnye@waterfordmi.gov)

**April 10, 2025**

**Esteemed Members of the Michigan Legislature**

State Capitol

P.O. Box 30014

Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Esteemed Members of the Michigan Legislature,

On behalf of the Waterford Regional Fire Department (WRFD), I am writing to express my strongest support for our request for Legislatively Directed Spending through the State of Michigan's appropriations process. These funds are urgently needed to support the construction of a new regional fire station in Waterford Township. This investment is critical to the long-term safety, security, and resilience of not only our community, but also the broader region.

WRFD is one of the most unique and operationally significant fire departments in the state. In 2012, the City of Pontiac Fire Department and the Waterford Township Fire Department consolidated to form a single regional department. This rare but highly effective solution has allowed us to streamline services, reduce costs, and improve emergency response across municipal boundaries. Today, WRFD provides all-hazards protection to Waterford Township, the City of Pontiac, and the City of Lake Angelus, serving more than 135,000 residents.

However, our service population extends far beyond that number. Thousands of people travel into our jurisdiction daily for employment, education, healthcare, shopping, and air travel. In 2024 alone, WRFD responded to nearly 16,000 calls for service. That number continues to grow due to expanding development, aging infrastructure, and increasingly complex emergencies, including extreme weather and behavioral health incidents.

Our most urgent infrastructure need is the replacement of WRFD Station #2, located at 4596 W. Walton Blvd. in Waterford Township. Built in 1952, this facility no longer meets the operational, safety, or energy standards required for a modern emergency response station. It is undersized for today's apparatus, lacks adequate accommodations for personnel, and cannot support the demands placed upon it. Despite these challenges, Station #2 remains critical to our regional emergency response capabilities. It serves as:

- The first-due response to the City of Lake Angelus
- The second-due response to the City of Pontiac
- The primary coverage for eastern Waterford Township
- A frequent mutual aid responder to Auburn Hills, Independence Township, and White Lake Township

The area served by Station #2 includes many of Oakland County's and the State of Michigan's most vital public and private infrastructure assets. These include:

- **Oakland County International Airport (OCIA)**, the second-busiest airport in Michigan behind DTW, with over 155,000 takeoffs and landings annually
- **The Buckeye Petroleum Pipeline**, a critical fuel distribution system for the region
- **The CN Railway**, a major freight corridor through the Midwest
- **The USPS Metroplex**, a primary mail distribution center for southeast Michigan
- **The Oakland County Government Complex**, home to the County Courthouse, Jail, Sheriff's Office, 911 Dispatch Center, Children's Village, and Oakland Schools headquarters
- **Three major hospitals**, providing nearly 1,300 beds
- **Key MDOT roadways**, including M-59 and US-24
- **Williams International and United Wholesale Mortgage**, whose corporate headquarters and operational campuses lie within our jurisdiction
- **An Amazon Fulfillment Center**, supporting regional logistics and supply chain operations
- **The 1775th Military Police National Guard Headquarters**, a critical state and national security asset
- **M1 Concourse and the Woodward Dream Cruise**, both of which bring large-scale public events requiring emergency coordination

WRFD is also a founding member of the OAKWAY mutual aid consortium, which includes departments from Birmingham, Bloomfield Township, Ferndale, Madison Heights, Royal Oak, Southfield, West Bloomfield, Rochester Hills, Farmington Hills, and Independence Township. In addition, we regularly provide mutual aid to other surrounding communities through the State of Michigan's Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS).

Replacing Station #2 would allow WRFD to build a modern, resilient, and energy-efficient facility that complies with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. The new station would support around-the-clock staffing and include essential features such as decontamination areas, secure equipment storage, separate accommodations for male and female personnel, and facilities that prioritize firefighter health and wellness. Fire stations today are much more than garages for emergency vehicles—they serve as strategic hubs for operations, logistics, training, and public service.

A state investment in this facility would provide lasting benefits to Michigan residents by:

- Improving emergency response times across multiple jurisdictions
- Enhancing protection of critical infrastructure and public services
- Ensuring safer, more sustainable working conditions for first responders
- Strengthening mutual aid capacity during large-scale events
- Easing the financial burden on local taxpayers, who are unable to fund the project on their own

We recognize the competitive nature of appropriations funding. However, few projects offer the same level of statewide relevance, regional impact, and daily public safety value. This new station would support three municipalities, protect essential state infrastructure, serve major regional employers and facilities, and enhance Michigan's overall emergency response capabilities.

We respectfully request your support in securing the necessary funding to bring this essential project to completion. Your leadership and advocacy will help ensure WRFD remains prepared, resilient, and equipped to meet the growing needs of the communities we serve.

Thank you for your continued commitment to public safety in Michigan. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information about this project.

Sincerely,

**Matthew Nye**

Fire Chief

Waterford Regional Fire Department

(248) 618-6607

[mnye@waterfordmi.gov](mailto:mnye@waterfordmi.gov)





April 17, 2025

Dear Rep. Michael Harris,

I proudly support the construction of a new Waterford Regional Fire Station. I commend the dedication and hard work of the fire department and staff in bringing this significant project to fruition. The need for a new fire station is tremendous, as the current station is obsolete and does not meet the standards for today's fire service.

Located in the center of Oakland County, Waterford Regional Fire Department provides emergency services to 130,000 residents, commercial automobile manufacturing and suppliers, and many other industrial properties. Waterford Regional is a true mutual aid neighbor that provides multiple responses to other communities that call for assistance during emergency incidents. This project stands to greatly enhance the quality of service this regional fire department provides.

I fully endorse Waterford Township as they pursue additional external funding to complement their local resources for this crucial project.

Sincerely,



**Karen Joliat, Commissioner**  
District 8  
Oakland County Board of Commissioners





Independence Fire Department  
6500 Citation Drive  
Clarkston, MI 48346  
April 16, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As Fire Chief of the Independence Township Fire Department, I am writing in support of the Waterford Regional Fire Department's request for funding to construct a new Fire Station #2, located at 4596 W. Walton Blvd. in Waterford Township.

The Waterford Regional Fire Department (WRFD) is a critical partner in the delivery of fire and emergency medical services throughout Southeast Oakland County. WRFD responds to nearly 16,000 calls for service each year and regularly provides mutual aid to neighboring communities during complex incidents, high-demand periods, and large-scale emergencies.

Station #2 is a cornerstone of this regional response network. Built in 1952, the facility is no longer suitable for the operational needs of a modern fire service. Despite this, it continues to play a key role in mutual aid deployment and multi-jurisdictional response strategies. The station's location is especially strategic, serving not only Waterford Township, but also providing vital coverage to the City of Pontiac, the City of Lake Angelus, Auburn Hills, and Independence Township.

A new, state-of-the-art fire station at this site will significantly strengthen the capacity of WRFD to respond both locally and regionally. Benefits to the broader mutual aid network will include:

- Improved response time and reliability for mutual aid requests
- Increased operational capacity during regional emergencies




- Enhanced firefighter health, safety, and readiness
- More resilient infrastructure to support critical transportation, government, and aviation hubs
- Greater coordination in multi-agency incidents throughout Oakland County

The OAKWAY consortium was built on collaboration, trust, and a shared commitment to protecting the residents and visitors of our communities. Investing in this facility is not only a benefit to Waterford Township—it is a benefit to every OAKWAY community and to Oakland County's broader emergency response system.

I fully support the Waterford Regional Fire Department's funding request for the replacement of Fire Station #2 and urge consideration of the regional impact this project will deliver. I am proud to stand alongside WRFD in advancing this critical initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave Piche".

Dave Piche'  
Chief of the Independence Township Fire Department



April 22, 2025

Representative Michael Harris  
Michigan State Capitol, Room H-374  
100 N. Capitol Ave  
Lansing, MI 48933

**RE: Letter of Support, Waterford Regional Fire Station**

Dear Representative Harris,

This letter confirms support from SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, for the construction of a new Waterford Regional Fire Station. We commend the dedication and hard work of Fire Department and staff in bringing this significant project to fruition. They have a tremendous need for a new fire station as the current one is obsolete and does not meet the standards for today's fire service

Located centrally in the center of Oakland County, Waterford Regional Fire Department provides emergency services to 135,000 residents, and commercial automobile manufacturing and suppliers, and many other industrial properties. Waterford Regional is a true mutual aid neighbor providing multiple responses to other communities that are calling for assistance during emergency incidents. This project stands to greatly enhance the quality of service this regional fire department provides.

SEMCOG is a regional planning partnership that supports coordinated local planning among over 170 units of local government across seven counties in Southeast Michigan. SEMCOG engages regional stakeholders and analyzes community recreation access and amenity data to ensure that the region meets the quality of life, health, and accessibility needs of residents. This project will help to achieve key regional priorities for economic and community vitality by connecting people to the places they live with infrastructure and services that support a high quality of life.

Investing in this project will improve quality of life for residents in Waterford Township and its surrounding communities, while also supporting SEMCOG's vision for the Southeast Michigan region.

Please accept this letter of support in consideration of funding for this initiative. Please contact me at 313-324-3350 or [oleary@semcog.org](mailto:oleary@semcog.org) if you have any questions or require additional information.

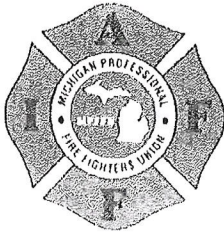
Sincerely,



Amy O'Leary  
Executive Director







***Waterford Professional***  
**FIRE FIGHTERS UNION LOCAL 1335**

2495 Crescent Lake Road • Waterford, Michigan 48329

Waterford Firefighters Local 1335

IAFF, AFL-CIO

2495 Crescent Lake Road

Waterford, MI 48329

April 10, 2025

Esteemed Members of the Michigan Legislature

State Capitol

P.O. Box 30014

Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Esteemed Members of the Michigan Legislature,

On behalf of the members of Waterford Firefighters Local #1335, I write to express our full support for the Waterford Regional Fire Department's request for Legislatively Directed Spending to fund the replacement of Station #2, currently located at 4596 W. Walton Blvd. in Waterford Township.

Our union proudly represents the firefighters, paramedics, and emergency medical technicians who respond day and night to the needs of residents across Waterford Township, the City of Pontiac, and the City of Lake Angelus. These three communities form the foundation of the Waterford Regional Fire Department, a unique and highly effective regional model that has provided consolidated fire and EMS protection since 2012.

Station #2 plays a critical role in our ability to serve the public. It is the first-due response station to Lake Angelus, the second-due to the City of Pontiac, and covers a high-volume, densely populated section of Waterford Township.

In addition to our core service area, our members are proud to support a broader network of communities through mutual aid. WRFD is a founding member of the OAKWAY mutual aid consortium, and we routinely respond to assist member departments including Birmingham, Bloomfield Township, Ferndale, Madison Heights, Royal Oak, Southfield, West Bloomfield, Rochester Hills, Farmington Hills, and Independence Township. Outside of OAKWAY, we are also the first mutual aid department requested into Auburn Hills for structure fires and other major incidents. Furthermore, WRFD personnel continue to respond through the Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) to provide support wherever it is needed throughout the state.

The problem is simple and urgent: the current Station #2, built in 1952, is no longer capable of supporting modern emergency operations. The facility lacks the space to house today's fire apparatus and ambulance units, and does not provide adequate accommodations for 24-hour staffing. Most importantly, it does not meet current safety standards for protecting firefighter health, including clean-air zoning, gear decontamination areas, and separation between living quarters and operational spaces.

Our members are committed to serving their communities at the highest level, but we must also ensure they have the resources and facilities necessary to do so safely. A modern fire station is not a luxury. It is a frontline tool for response, training, readiness, and recovery. When facilities fall short, it increases wear on equipment, contributes to firefighter injuries and illnesses, and delays response time when seconds truly matter.

The new proposed station will address these gaps and will be located approximately one mile closer to some of the key service areas, improving deployment time to the residents of Lake Angelus and Pontiac. The station will also support features that are now considered industry best practices, such as separate accommodations for male and female personnel, secure equipment storage, and wellness infrastructure designed to mitigate occupational cancer risk and behavioral health stress.

This project is more than bricks and mortar. It is about giving the men and women who serve on the front lines the tools they need to protect others, and to return safely to their families at the end of every shift. A state investment in this project will deliver long-term value to the region, enhance inter-community support, and ensure that WRFD can continue to be the standard for regional emergency services in Michigan.

Waterford Firefighters Local #1335 strongly urges your support for this critical public safety investment. Thank you for your continued commitment to the safety of Michigan's citizens and the firefighters who serve them.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Presutti

President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas Presutti", written in a cursive style.

Waterford Firefighters Local #1335

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)







50 N. Perry St.  
Pontiac, Michigan  
48342-2217

tel (248) 338-5384

[mclaren.org](http://mclaren.org)

Date: April 17, 2025

Representative Mike Harris  
District 52  
Room H-374 Capitol Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Mike Harris,

On behalf of McLaren Oakland Hospital, I am writing to express our strong support for Waterford Township's application for funding to construct a new Regional Fire Station to replace the current Fire Station 2.

As a healthcare provider and partner in emergency response efforts, we have long recognized the critical role that the Waterford Regional Fire Department plays in safeguarding the health and safety of the communities it serves—including Waterford, Pontiac, Lake Angelus, and much of Oakland County through established mutual aid agreements. Station 2 is a vital component of that system, providing essential emergency response services in the northern part of the township and serving as a key support hub within the Oakway Mutual Aid Pact.

Unfortunately, Station 2—originally constructed in 1952—has reached a point where continued operation is no longer viable. A 2023 facilities assessment determined that the building is beyond repair and that necessary updates are cost-prohibitive. Despite its condition, the station remains staffed by four firefighters operating one engine and one rescue vehicle. There is currently only one working bathroom and no appropriate facilities for female firefighters—conditions that are unacceptable for a modern, inclusive emergency response team.

The proposed replacement station would address these deficiencies and strengthen emergency medical and fire services for the region. As a hospital that relies on rapid, coordinated emergency responses, we understand the value of strong infrastructure and



OAKLAND

fully support Waterford Township's request for \$10 million in grant funding, with a 14% local cost match to complete the project.

This investment is not only necessary—it is urgent. We respectfully urge your support of this application, as it will significantly improve emergency response capacity and ensure the safety and well-being of both first responders and the public.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Krysta Ivey", written over a horizontal line.

Krysta Ivey

Vice President of Marketing and Business Development  
McLaren Oakland



**Royal Oak  
FIRE DEPT**

**Fire Department**  
215 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
248.246.3800

April 4, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As Fire Chief of the Royal Oak Fire Department, I am writing in support of the Waterford Regional Fire Department's request for funding to construct a new Fire Station #2, located at 4596 W. Walton Blvd. in Waterford Township.

The Waterford Regional Fire Department (WRFD) is a critical partner in the delivery of fire and emergency medical services throughout Southeast Oakland County. WRFD responds to nearly 16,000 calls for service each year and regularly provides mutual aid to neighboring communities during complex incidents, high-demand periods, and large-scale emergencies.

Station #2 is a cornerstone of this regional response network. Built in 1952, the facility is no longer suitable for the operational needs of a modern fire service. Despite this, it continues to play a key role in mutual aid deployment and multi-jurisdictional response strategies. The station's location is especially strategic, serving not only Waterford Township, but also providing vital coverage to the City of Pontiac, the City of Lake Angelus, Auburn Hills, and Independence Township.

A new, state-of-the-art fire station at this site will significantly strengthen the capacity of WRFD to respond both locally and regionally. Benefits to the broader mutual aid network will include:

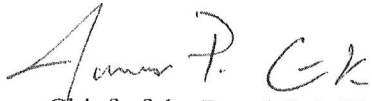
- Improved response time and reliability for mutual aid requests
- Increased operational capacity during regional emergencies
- Enhanced firefighter health, safety, and readiness
- More resilient infrastructure to support critical transportation, government, and aviation hubs
- Greater coordination in multi-agency incidents throughout Oakland County

The OAKWAY consortium was built on collaboration, trust, and a shared commitment to protecting the residents and visitors of our communities. Investing in this facility is not only a benefit to Waterford Township—it is a benefit to every OAKWAY community and to

Oakland County's broader emergency response system.

I fully support the Waterford Regional Fire Department's funding request for the replacement of Fire Station #2 and urge consideration of the regional impact this project will deliver. I am proud to stand alongside WRFD in advancing this critical initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James P. Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "Clark" being clearly legible.

Chief of the Royal Oak Fire Department



THE SENATE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

JIM RUNESTAD  
23RD DISTRICT  
P.O. BOX 30036  
LANSING, MI 48909-7536  
PHONE: (517) 373-1758  
FAX: (517) 373-0938  
senjrunestad@senate.michigan.gov

To Representative Ann Bollin,

I would like to offer up my enthusiastic support for the construction of a new Waterford Regional Fire Station. I recognize the significance and need that the Fire Department has as their old station is 75 years old and does not meet the needs of a regional fire department. The insufficiency in the current fire station and the increase in calls for service that Waterford Regional Fire is experiencing makes it necessary for this new station to be constructed.

Fire Departments must have fire stations operational for today's diverse emergency services that they provide including fire, medical, hazardous material, technical rescue, cold water rescue, and just about anything that mankind can get themselves into that requires rescue.

Waterford Regional Fire serves three different communities, covering 60 square miles, with nearly 135,000 residents, commercial and heavy industry. This regional fire department is situated in the very center of Oakland County. With that in mind, Waterford Regional Fire is capable and has provided service outside of those 60 square miles, into all of Oakland County and beyond. This project is a tremendous benefit to not only adjacent communities but to the entire region here in Oakland County.

I also am encouraged that Waterford has a shovel ready project, to which they show an urgency to get this project moving.

I strongly support this SOM Legislative Spending request for Waterford Township, as they are looking for additional external funding outside of its own local resources to dedicate to this essential project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jim Runestad".





# SOUTHFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

24477 LAHSER ROAD  
SOUTHFIELD, MI 48033  
TEL: (248) 796-5650  
FAX: (248) 796-5605



ANTONIO MACIAS III, ACTING CHIEF

April 14, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As Fire Chief of the Southfield Fire Department, I am writing in support of the Waterford Regional Fire Department's request for funding to construct a new Fire Station #2, located at 4596 W. Walton Blvd. in Waterford Township.

The Waterford Regional Fire Department (WRFD) is a critical partner in the delivery of fire and emergency medical services throughout Southeast Oakland County. WRFD responds to nearly 16,000 calls for service each year and regularly provides mutual aid to neighboring communities during complex incidents, high-demand periods, and large-scale emergencies.

Station #2 is a cornerstone of this regional response network. Built in 1952, the facility is no longer suitable for the operational needs of a modern fire service. Despite this, it continues to play a key role in mutual aid deployment and multi-jurisdictional response strategies. The station's location is especially strategic, serving not only Waterford Township, but also providing vital coverage to the City of Pontiac, the City of Lake Angelus, Auburn Hills, and Independence Township.

A new, state-of-the-art fire station at this site will significantly strengthen the capacity of WRFD to respond both locally and regionally. Benefits to the broader mutual aid network will include:

- Improved response time and reliability for mutual aid requests
- Increased operational capacity during regional emergencies
- Enhanced firefighter health, safety, and readiness
- More resilient infrastructure to support critical transportation, government, and aviation hubs
- Greater coordination in multi-agency incidents throughout Oakland County

The OAKWAY consortium was built on collaboration, trust, and a shared commitment to protecting the residents and visitors of our communities.

## FIRE ADMINISTRATION

BATT. CHIEF CHRIS SMITH	CAPTAIN TIM MILLER	FIRE MARSHAL LATEEF TOWNSEL
BATT. CHIEF KEN WHEATON	CAPTAIN RONN BALLERINI	CAPTAIN/EMS JEFF VESCIO
BATT. CHIEF PATRICK CHARETTE	CAPTAIN JAMES BUNKER JR.	CAPTAIN/TRAINING JASON DENEAU

# SOUTHFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

24477 LAHSEY ROAD  
SOUTHFIELD, MI 48033  
TEL: (248) 796-5650  
FAX: (248) 796-5605



ANTONIO MACIAS III, ACTING CHIEF

Investing in this facility is not only a benefit to Waterford Township—it is a benefit to every OAKWAY community and to Oakland County's broader emergency response system.

I fully support the Waterford Regional Fire Department's funding request for the replacement of Fire Station #2 and urge consideration of the regional impact this project will deliver. I am proud to stand alongside WRFD in advancing this critical initiative.

Sincerely,

Antonio Macias III  
Chief of the Southfield Fire Department

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## FIRE ADMINISTRATION

BATT. CHIEF CHRIS SMITH	CAPTAIN TIM MILLER	FIRE MARSHAL LATEEF TOWNSEL
BATT. CHIEF KEN WHEATON	CAPTAIN RONN BALLERINI	CAPTAIN/EMS JEFF VESCIO
BATT. CHIEF PATRICK CHARETTE	CAPTAIN JAMES BUNKER JR.	CAPTAIN/TRAINING JASON DENEAU

Dear Representative Mike Harris,

On behalf of the Waterford Area Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our full support for Waterford Township's application for funding to construct a new Regional Fire Station to replace the current Fire Station 2.

The Waterford Regional Fire Department is a cornerstone of safety for the communities of Waterford, Pontiac, and Lake Angelus. The Department also plays a vital role in the broader region, providing mutual aid support throughout nearly all of Oakland County through the Oakway Mutual Aid Pact. Fire Station 2, located in the northern part of the township, is a key asset in this regional network, serving as a front-line resource not only for our local communities but also as a crucial partner for emergency response county-wide.

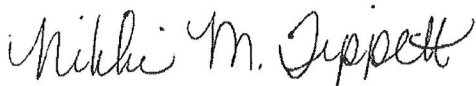
Built in 1952, the current Station 2 has exceeded its functional lifespan. A comprehensive study conducted in 2023 concluded that the facility is beyond repair and cost-prohibitive to renovate. Despite this, the station remains operational—staffed by four dedicated firefighters, equipped with one engine and one rescue vehicle. The outdated infrastructure is increasingly inadequate, with only one working bathroom for four personnel and no appropriate accommodations for female firefighters. These conditions underscore the urgent need for a modern, inclusive, and functional facility.

The proposed new Regional Fire Station will not only replace aging infrastructure but will also enhance response capabilities, support public safety, and reinforce the mutual aid system that protects Oakland County as a whole. It represents a forward-thinking investment in our region's safety and resilience.

The Waterford Chamber of Commerce, along with Waterford Township and the Fire Department, remains deeply committed to ensuring our community has access to the best emergency services possible. We strongly support the Township's request for \$10 million in grant funding, with a 14% cost match commitment from the Township to complete the project. This investment is essential to sustaining and improving public safety in our region for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention to this vital matter. We urge you to support this grant application and help bring this important project to fruition.

Sincerely,



Nikki M. Tippet  
Executive Director  
Waterford Area Chamber of Commerce

