

# Elmer G Biddick

## CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

11623 State Road 80 Livingston, WI 53554

Phone (608) 943-6363

[www.biddickfoundation.com](http://www.biddickfoundation.com)

Jason B Biddick - President  
Rachel L. Jordan - Vice-President  
Bradley D Biddick - Secretary/Treasurer

Peggy J Biddick  
Dinah Overlien  
James W Neuenhof  
Wendy Potter

### GRANT APPLICATION

**\*Must be received in our office on or before the due dates below**

**Due Dates April 15<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>**

Date: October 10, 2021

Name of Organization (must match IRS 501(c)(3) designation) Platteville Fire Department Inc.

Address 275 E. Main St.

City, State, Zip Platteville, WI, 53818

Phone 608-348-7826

Person Responsible for the Grant Ashley Fitzgerald

Position in the Organization Director/Firefighter

Organization's Purpose The Platteville Fire Department is committed to protecting the people and property within our fire district. We are responsive to the needs of our citizens by providing rapid, professional, humanitarian services essential to the health, safety, and well-being of the citizens we protect.

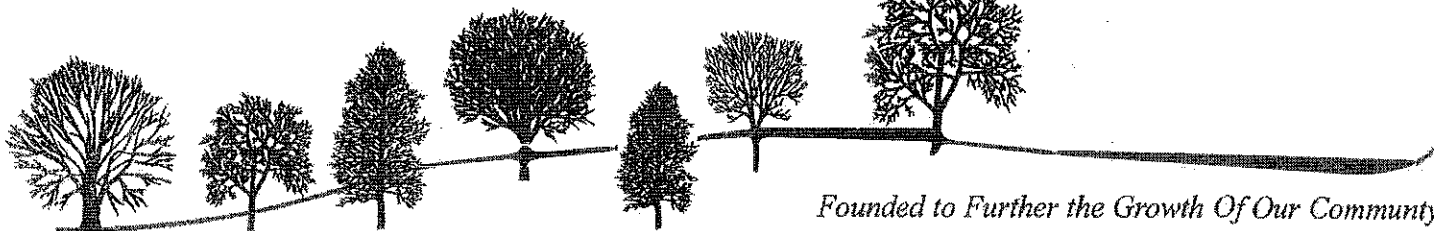
This application must include your organization's latest IRS Letter of Determination showing exemption and public support status. (Not required for units of Government & public schools).

Grant Request \$ 3,450

Describe the reason for this grant request in the space below:

The Platteville Fire Department is requesting \$3,450 from the Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation to fund the purchase of 5 new batteries for our battery-operated extrication equipment. These batteries are needed to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens in our fire district, as well as, our firefighters. At this time, the department's batteries only have a lifespan of 5 minutes, a third of the lifespan of new batteries. This requires us to constantly have to stop and replace the battery during extrications which is physically exhausting for the firefighters and could be detrimental to the victims, since it is prolonging the time it takes for them to receive treatment.

-Application continued on next page



*Founded to Further the Growth Of Our Community.*

Attachments to this grant that we find useful in considering your grant request.

- A. Supporting information.
  - 1. Specific use of grant.
  - 2. Time schedule.
  - 3. Other sources of funding.
  - 4. Describe the effect of postponing your request to another time.
  - 5. Describe who, when, how and where will the effects of this grant be felt.
  
- B. Your organization's history, activities, services, and composition. (Videos are of limited use.)

Applications are considered in June and December of each year. The corresponding deadlines are April 15<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>. Concise grants that address the needed information are appreciated.

**PLEASE SEND THIS APPLICATION TO ELMER G BIDDICK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION:**

Biddick, Inc.  
11623 State Road 80  
Livingston, WI 53554  
Phone (608) 943-6363



# Platteville Fire Department

*Platteville, Wisconsin*

*Pride in Volunteering Since 1874*

## Statement of Need

The Platteville Fire Department is in dire need of new batteries for our battery-operated extrication equipment to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens in our fire district. At this time, the department's current batteries only have a lifespan of 5 minutes, a third of the lifespan of new batteries. This requires us to constantly have to stop and replace the battery during extrications which is physically exhausting for the firefighters and could be detrimental to the victims, since it is prolonging the time it takes for them to receive treatment. Currently, funding is not available through normal budgetary means of the department, or the city of Platteville, to fund such a crucial purchase.

## Department History and Overview

The Platteville Fire Department originated in 1874 after a disastrous fire took place in the village. Due to the disastrous fire, it was determined that a volunteer fire department would be very beneficial. On May 18th, 1874, there were sixty businessmen that met to officially form Platteville's first fire department by adopting By-Laws, electing officers, and establishing monthly meetings. Now, 147 years later, the Platteville Fire Department is still a volunteer department comprising of 60 members. The mission of the department is to provide rapid, professional, humanitarian services essential to the health, safety, and well-being of all the residents. Based on the 2020 Census, there are 16,484 permanent residents of the fire district and an additional 7,500 temporary residents that attend the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. The fire district consists of the city of Platteville and numerous other townships which are Platteville, Smelser, Lima, Harrison, Ellenboro, Elk Grove, and Belmont. The fire district is serviced by State Highways 80 and 81 and US Highway 151.

According to a recent comprehensive study completed by Five Bugles Design, US Highway 151 is the greatest non-structural risk for the Platteville Fire Department due to the volume and variety of vehicles and commodities that pass through on this route. Since 2010, there has been approximately a 5% increase in call volume each year, with the trend continuing at an alarming pace in 2021, with a 10% upsurge in total calls, and a steady 20% of all emergency calls being motor vehicle accidents. In 2020, the department responded to 225 NFIRS Series calls including 45 motor vehicle accidents. With this increasing trend in calls and motor vehicle accidents, it makes the department's need for new batteries for our extrication equipment even more critical.



# Platteville Fire Department

*Platteville, Wisconsin*

*Pride in Volunteering Since 1874*

## Purpose of Grant Request

The Platteville Fire Department is seeking a grant of \$3,450 from the Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation to fund the purchase of 5 new batteries to power our battery-operated extrication equipment. These new batteries would drastically reduce rescue time and increase firefighter safety.

Currently, the department's extrication equipment is unreliable and inefficient due to the limited power and lifespan of the batteries. During an extrication, the current tools can only withstand 5 minutes worth of continuous use before the battery is exhausted and needs to be replaced. This ends up forcing the extrication to stop while the battery is changed. These new batteries we want to purchase can endure 15 minutes of continuous use before requiring a new battery. The tripled lifespan of the batteries along with the higher performance, the new batteries will allow us, should cut extrication time in half which could increase the survival chances for the victim.

According to the NFPA, 8% of all line-of-duty-deaths in 2019 were caused by being struck by another vehicle while at a motor vehicle accident. With the purchase of these batteries, it would decrease the amount of time the firefighters would have to be on scene during a motor vehicle accident by nearly half; Allowing us to get off the unsafe roadways much faster than today. The other great safety risk our firefighters endure because of our current batteries is physical exhaustion, which according to the NFPA is the leading cause of fireground injuries. Between having to stop the extrication and change the battery every 5 minutes and the limited performance that the tools have, extrications take much longer than they should and are incredibly draining on the firefighters. These overexertion injuries could easily be avoided if we just had new batteries for our extrication equipment.

## Financial Challenges

As a volunteer fire department, we do not have the financial ability to purchase new batteries for our extrication equipment without the assistance from an outside funding source. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the department has seen a reduction in donations due to the financial instability of many of our citizens and local businesses. This has also resulted in a decrease in our departments fundraising abilities. Fundraising and



# Platteville Fire Department

*Platteville, Wisconsin*

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donation are the department's primary sources of revenue. Due to the lack of these revenue sources, we do not have enough funds to cover all of our yearly expenses, nor do we have the ability to purchase new equipment. As a result, this could negatively impact the health and safety of our communities and firefighters.

Before requesting funding from the Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation the Platteville Fire Department approached the city of Platteville, addressing the shortfall of funds but was denied approval due to the financial challenges the city is also currently facing. The city of Platteville's 2021 budget has expenditures surpassing revenue by \$61,201 in addition to an outstanding debt of \$20,963,389. It is quite obvious the city is facing severe financial hardships and does not have the financial ability or stability to help fund this purchase now or in the near future.

## Anticipated Outcomes and Schedule

The ultimate goal of this battery purchase is to save lives and increase firefighter safety. Even though the new batteries' abilities to save lives cannot be directly measured, the reduction in both extrication time and time spent on scene is measurable. An anticipated outcome is a reduction of at least 5 minutes in extrication time, which will improve victim survival rate. This will allow the firefighters to get off the unsafe roadways in a timely fashion. Another positive outcome would be the reduction in firefighter injuries while on scene at a motor vehicle accident. A final positive outcome is the reduction of physical exhaustion caused by the limited performance and lifespan of the batteries. These anticipated outcomes are considering: the new batteries' performance capabilities; the tripled lifespan; and the reduction in physical effort the firefighters must exert during the extrication process.

The anticipated timeline is to have the batteries purchased by January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 and have them in-hand and available for use by February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. This will allow us to have them available for the majority of our busiest motor vehicle accident season, winter. However, this timeline is only feasible if we receive a grant from the Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation. As stated above, we are unable to make this purchase without funding from an outside source due to the financial hardships our department and city are currently facing.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
P.O. BOX 2508  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

**MAR 05 2019**

Date:

PLATTEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT INC  
275 E MAIN ST  
PLATTEVILLE, WI 53818-0000

Employer Identification Number:  
48-1282990

DLN:  
26053435011899

Contact Person:  
CUSTOMER SERVICE ID# 31954

Contact Telephone Number:  
(877) 829-5500

Accounting Period Ending:  
December 31

Public Charity Status:  
509 (a) (2)

Form 990/990-EZ/990-N Required:  
Yes

Effective Date of Exemption:  
January 14, 2019

Contribution Deductibility:  
Yes

Addendum Applies:  
No

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c) (3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c) (3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard. If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to [www.irs.gov/charities](http://www.irs.gov/charities). Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c) (3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

PLATTEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT INC

Sincerely,

*Stephen A. Martin*

Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements