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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## SIX PARTNER RESPONSE TO THE CITY OF DELAFIELD REJECTION OF PROPOSED INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT AMENDMENT FOR LAKE COUNTRY FIRE AND RESCUE (LCFR)

Exceed Current CPI Plus 2% In 2024 to Fund LCFR

The City of Delafield at their Common Council meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup> unanimously rejected an Amendment to the Lake Country Fire and Rescue **IMA** proposed by the Town of Genesee which would allow the **LCFR** to exceed the **IMA's** current requirement that annual LCFR Budget increases cannot exceed 2% plus the Consumer Price Index (**CPI**) to meet the staffing needs of the Lake Country Fire and Rescue Fire Department as approved by the **LCFR Fire Board**. At the **LCFR** Annual Joint meeting of the partners on Thursday, September 7, the City again held their position rejecting their support of the 2024 budget as approved by the other six communities.

The proposed Amendment created an exception in 2024 to exceed limitation of **CPI** plus 2% increase of the LCFR Operational Budget to hire additional staff in 2024 as recommended by the **LCFR** Staffing plan that was adopted by the **LCFR Board** in the Fall of 2022 and was passed by the other 6 communities that make up the Lake Country Fire and Rescue; specifically, the Town of Genesee, Town of Delafield and Villages of Chenequa, Nashotah, Oconomowoc Lake and Wales.

The current funding formula was agreed upon by all six communities and the City of Delafield when LCFR expanded to include the Town of Delafield, Town of Genesee and the Villages of Oconomowoc Lake & Wales. The Agreement to include these additional communities was signed in the fall of 2020 and took effect January 1, 2021.

The City of Delafield's Fire Fee Referendum (*which purposely underestimated the City's potential financial obligation based on the 2022 Staffing Plan that was passed by the LCFR Board and sent to all communities in 2022*) passed in April 2023, effectively creating a new formula, that eliminated the fixed base percentage allocation that had been agreed upon in the Intermunicipal Agreement without consulting with the other 6 communities.

The rejection, at the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the 7 LCFR partners, six-communities agreed to work to overcome the objections raised by the City of Delafield to the IMA in exchange for the City of Delafield agreeing to meet the 2024 obligation. The other 6 Communities also offered to hire the expert the City of Delafield suggested to open the IMA to look for possible inequities and resolve those matters no later than March of 2024. This "good faith" action suggestion by the 6 partner communities would work to meet the necessary critical 2024 staffing requirements recommended by the LCFR Fire Board was rejected in a closed session vote by the City Delafield and this is very disappointing. The City's argument that the current formula is

broken, and that the IMA must be reopened just two years into a seven-year contract to change the formula to eliminate the fixed base portion is not in the spirit of the IMA or the cooperation of the consolidated Lake Country Fire and Rescue however the 6 communities felt that we were willing to work together for the safety of all communities.

The City of Delafield currently pays 41% of the overall LCFR Budget while using 45% of the service.

The City of Delafield is now risking the public safety of the Entire LCFR Service Area by not allowing LCFR in 2024 to hire additional staff to help alleviate the staffing shortages. These shortages are well documented and have resulted in the City of Delafield fire station being closed for 10 twenty-four-hour periods in the most recent month!

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