



Manitowoc Fire Rescue Department

Memo

To: Public Safety Committee
From: Todd Blaser, Chief Fire Rescue
Date: August 4, 2025
Re: FEMA Port Security Grant

We would like to bring to your attention a valuable opportunity to secure funding through a competitive grant program. The grant presents an opportunity for the Manitowoc Fire Rescue Department to enhance our protection of our Lakeshore and Harbor.

The Fire Rescue Department was notified in March of 2024 that there will be no Coast Guard presence in Manitowoc County, as we previously relied upon, due to staffing issues of the United States Coast Guard (USCG).

We believe that pursuing this grant opportunity meets our Mission and Vision Statement and has the ability to enhance our safety along the Lakeshore and Harbor of Manitowoc. Our recent designation as a National Marine Sanctuary successful industrial business and recreational water activities has enhanced our need for the proper equipment to address fire suppression, rescue and Emergency Medical Services to those in need off our shores.

We respectfully request your consideration authorizing our pursuit of this grant opportunity. Fire Administration is confident with our collective efforts, collaboration, and support from local businesses, a strong application that highlights the impact of our proposed project and the value it will provide to enhancing the safety of our Lakeshore and Harbor will be submitted.

Thank you for your consideration of the grant and we look forward to discussing this opportunity and working to secure this grant for the benefit of our community.



2025 FEMA Port Security Grant Program



FEMA

2025 Port Security Grant (PSGP)

- This grant provides funding to state, local and private-sector partners to help protect critical port infrastructure from terrorism, enhance maritime domain awareness, improve port-wide maritime security risk management, and maintain or reestablish maritime security mitigation protocols that support port recovery and resiliency capabilities.
- 2025 PSGP focused on putting vessels on the water.
- Coast Guard recruiting is down causing redeployment of resources.
- Two Rivers Coast Guard Station no longer staffed.
- Coast Guard responding from Sheboygan or Sturgeon Bay when requested.



2025 PSGP Timeline

- Grant application due August 15, 2025
- Anticipated award date 8-23-2025
- Performance period 9-1-2025 through 8-31-2028
- PSGP has a cost match component.
 - Federal 75%
 - Local/City 25%
- Project total cost \$880,644.
- Anticipated City investment \$219,661

MFRD Current Vessels

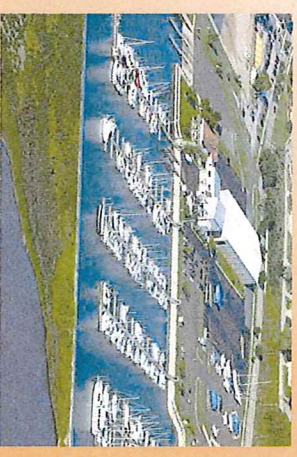
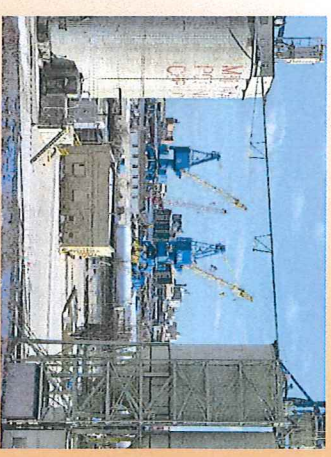
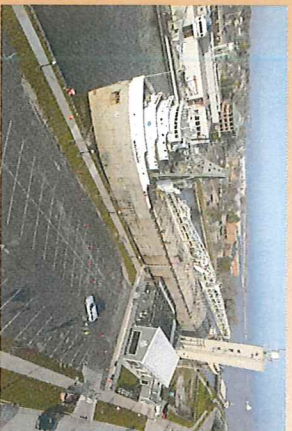
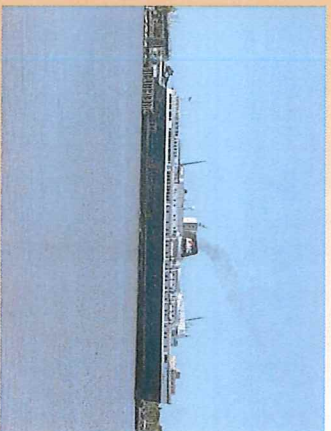


2006 Angler 22'

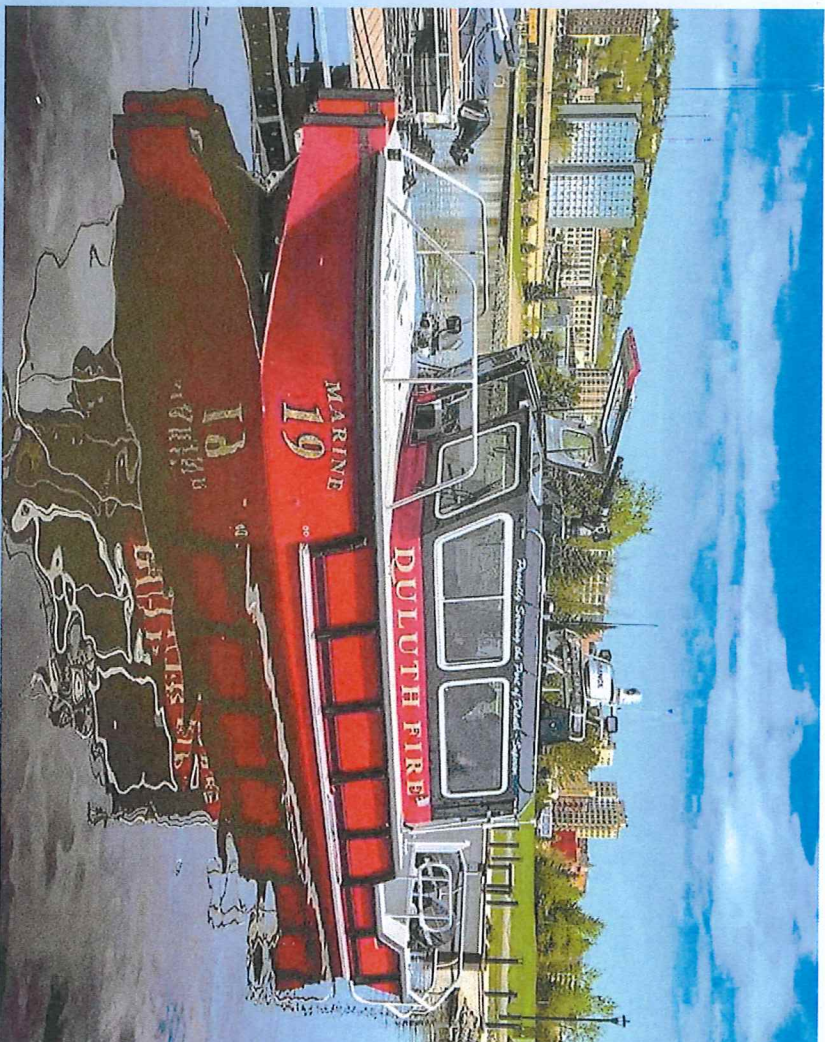


2016 Wing Inflatable 15.5'

Manitowoc's Lake and River Corridor



- Effective maritime emergency response and security relies on seamless coordination between multiple agencies, including local law enforcement, neighboring community agencies, Coast Guard, and federal agencies.
- The requested asset with increase interoperability between multiple agencies by providing a platform to mount a cohesive response to emergency and security incidents.



- Near identical vessel as Manitowoc specification.
- Greatly enhances MFRD's maritime capabilities to respond to water emergencies in the port and outside of the breakwaters.