

RYAN GRIM
Chief of Police



300 W BARAGA AVENUE
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(906)228-0400

CHRISTOPHER ALDRICH
Captain of Detectives

JAMES FINKBEINER
Captain of Patrol Operations

March 10, 2025

Mr. Robert Curtis
Tribal Council President
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
107 Beartown Road
Baraga, MI 49908

Dear Mr. Curtis,

The Marquette Police Department humbly requests funding in the amount of \$10,485.83 to procure gym and fitness equipment for our facility to support the health and wellness of our officers.

Given the physically demanding nature of law enforcement, it is essential that our personnel have access to proper fitness resources to maintain their physical readiness, reduce injury risks, and enhance overall well-being. Our department recently acquired additional space within our facility after a long-term tenant has moved out. The intended use for this new space would be an area for our officers to practice defensive tactics to mitigate risk and injury both to our officers and the public, and to provide a space for officers to maintain and improve their physical fitness.

The department does have some items such as padded wrestling mats for defensive tactics, but overall, this is an entirely new project. Creating a brand new, fully equipped gym facility from scratch is a costly venture so an emphasis would be placed on weightlifting equipment such as power racks, weight stacks with cables, and free weights as they require minimum efforts to maintain. In the future, the department would look to add items such as cardiovascular equipment like treadmills, rowers, battle ropes, or similar items to promote strength, speed, and conditioning. Additional equipment would be purchased through further grant funding or through the department's general operating budget.

Physical readiness is of paramount concern in our profession. Law enforcement duties often require strength, endurance and agility. Access to appropriate fitness equipment ensures our officers are prepared for job-related physical challenges that arise on a daily basis. Fitness equipment also aids in injury prevention and rehabilitation for those recovering from job-related physical strain.

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The Marquette Police Department is dedicated to officer wellness and considers it a top priority. We are currently in partnership under a pilot program with a local organization that provides social and mental health services to our officers. It is without question that regular exercise has been proven to reduce stress, anxiety, and depression which can be a hidden enemy of law enforcement. The daily stressors of our job and the potential trauma we face every day can offer a significant burden that officers carry with them even when they're not on duty. In addition to these social and mental health services, access to fitness equipment would provide a healthy outlet for our officers to improve and sustain their well-being.

The Marquette Police Department is overly grateful for prior funding for police equipment in the past by your organization. Although the department has made significant efforts to maintain a well-funded budget, continual transitions of personnel due to regular retirements and unforeseen departures have resulted in unusual financial strain. With these departures, come the need for more specialized trainings to be sought out to replace the outgoing staff members, new equipment for incoming staff, and manpower constraints. This in turn has created more budgetary pressure which makes a purchase like this burdensome. Furthermore, our city is currently facing some financial challenges due to the loss of major taxpayers, tax tribunal filings, and other long-term commitments.

That being said, this request for funding would help in kickstarting this project while remaining funds would be covered by the department to fully equip this new facility.

The goal of this proposal is to provide our officers with modern gym and fitness equipment to combat the physical and mental pressures of our profession. In partnership with your organization, we respectfully ask for your consideration in funding.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seth Bjorne', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sgt. Seth Bjorne
Marquette Police Department
906-228-0400
sbjorne@marquettemi.gov