



La Crosse County Historical Society & La Crosse Fire Department



Memorandum of Understanding

Whereas; the La Crosse County Historical Society and the La Crosse Fire Department have shared a long history of cooperation with respect to Fire Department artifacts. The 2 organizations partnered on an exhibit in 2013, which was a tremendous success.

Whereas; the staff at the La Crosse County Historical Society have educated firefighters on the correct way to preserve historical firefighting items and firefighters have shared information about the fire service in La Crosse.

Whereas; both organizations recognize the importance of preserving the Nott Steamer and the 1922 American La France Engine. This partnership has required several members with a passion for history to move, clean, store, and care for these items along with hundreds of other items.

Whereas; the 1904 Nott Steamer built by the W.S. Nott Company was donated to the La Crosse County Historical Society by the La Crosse Common Council in 1945.

Whereas; the City is constructing a new Fire Station on Gillette Street in 2023, with a space dedicated to the History of the La Crosse Fire Department.

Therefore, be it resolved; that the Nott Steamer will be placed in the new Fire Station 4 on Gillette Street, on a renewable loan from the La Crosse County Historical Society.

Be it also resolved; that the city will continue to store the 1922 American La France Engine in a secure space for as long as the Steamer is housed at Fire Station 4 for the entirety of this agreement.

Agreement

La Crosse County Historical Society (LCHS) hereby lends to the La Crosse Fire Department the objects described herein for the purposes and subject to the terms and conditions set forth.

Objects

Catalog Number: 1945.020.01

Object: 1904 Steam Pumper used by the City of La Crosse Fire Department

Catalog Number: 1962.002.01

Object: 1922 La France Truck used by the City of La Crosse Fire Department

Loan Period March 1, 2024 to March 1, 2029. Renewable for another 5-year period.

Insurance

Insurance Value: \$25,000 each

Insurance is to be carried by LCHS and paid by LCHS. LCHS will annually provide a copy of the insurance policy listing the objects with their values.

Objects shall be insured for the value stated on this agreement under an all-risk wall-to-wall policy subject to the following standard exclusions: wear and tear, gradual deterioration or inherent vice; hostile or warlike action, insurrection, or rebellion; nuclear reaction, nuclear radiation or radioactive contamination. This does not release the borrower from physical damage to the objects loaned.

Care

Objects borrowed shall be given proper care to insure against loss, damage, or deterioration. LCHS is to be notified immediately, followed by a full written and photographic report if damage or loss is discovered. No object may be altered, cleaned, repaired, or fumigated without the written permission of LCHS. Objects must be maintained in a fireproof building under 24-hour physical and/or electronic security and protected from unusual temperatures and humidity, excessive light, and from insects, vermin, dirt, or other environmental hazards. Objects will not be moved without permission from LCHS.

Display

This loan is made with the understanding that the 1904 Steam Pumper will be on display in Fire Station 4 and the 1922 La France will be stored in heated/air-conditioned storage on city property throughout the duration of this loan agreement. The 1904 Steam Pumper will be protected with a barrier of stanchions supplied by the borrower while on display and windows will be fitted with UV film to protect the Steam Pumper from fading and sun damage.

Return

Any intention by the borrower to withdraw the loan from the display (Steam Pumper) or storage (La France) must be communicated to LCHS immediately. LCHS reserves the right to recall the loan or cancel the loan for good cause at any time, and will make effort to give reasonable notice thereof. Objects lent must be returned to LCHS by the stated return date. Any extension of the loan period must be approved by the LCHS Board of Directors.

Interpretation

In the event of any conflict between this agreement and any forms of the borrower, the terms of this agreement shall be controlling.

The borrower acknowledges that they have the full authority and power to enter into this agreement, have read the conditions on this form, and agree to be bound by them.

Signature:  _____
La Crosse County Historical Society

Date: 2/8/24

Signature:  _____
La Crosse Fire Department

Date: 2/13/24