



**DIRECCION GENERAL
DEL H. CUERPO DE BOMBEROS
MUNICIPIO DE BENITO JUAREZ**



October 14, 2020

Dear Chief Puknaitis,

Thank you for the continued consideration with assisting the Cancun Fire Department through the donation of equipment that is no longer able to be in service with your fire department. As you are aware, the already donated Ladder Truck and Ambulance have been put in service in our fire stations and been able to help the firefighters perform their work in a much safer manner. Additionally, this equipment has been able to serve the citizens and visitors of Cancun in critical times of need.

The Cancun Fire Department is provided a minimal budget through local and federal government to maintain operations for our five fire stations in operation. A great majority of our vehicle acquisitions have been through donations made by fire departments in the United States that had equipment no longer able to be kept in service. In order to maintain our vehicles, department members often work on their day off to make necessary repairs. Unlike most of the United States, our firefighters work 24 hours on and 24 hours off, 365 days a year, with no vacation time or holidays. When they repair equipment on their off time, it often takes away from time with their family. The department teaches fire safety and CPR classes to the public in order to generate revenue to be able to purchase things like engine oil and antifreeze to keep the vehicles operational. Occasionally replacement parts can be purchased, but we usually obtain replacement parts from old fire trucks that could no longer be repaired and are sitting in the back lot of our fire stations. We have been versatile and make sure to always do our best to have operating equipment ready for when the call for help comes in.

The most recent consideration to donate another retired ambulance is much needed. This would allow us to have a second ambulance available to the citizens and visitors. The first ambulance we received from you runs calls every day and is a great addition to our service. Before receiving this ambulance, we relied on all privately owned, for profit, ambulance companies to provide emergent medical service for our department. At times, we have to wait more than twenty or thirty minutes for them to arrive on the scene. Adding a second unit will make us even more prepared to provide medical service in the community and get a person in need to the hospital much faster than waiting for the private ambulances.

I understand if your city is unable to provide this unit to our department and appreciate all that we have been able to accomplish already. We would just continue to work with the ambulance we already have received from you. We do not have any funding available now, or in the near future, to be able to purchase any fire/medical apparatus or equipment. Even a used apparatus like you ambulance is quite expensive for us to purchase. However, if there is a possibility to obtain this unit, I know it would be of great benefit to our department, citizens, and visitors from all over the world. I would also be willing to explore any opportunity to have a continued partnership with your city to obtain any future retired fire/medical apparatus and equipment which will help improve our department and services.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hurtado – Fire Chief
Cancun Fire Department - Mexico



**MUNICIPIO BENITO JUAREZ
CUERPO DE BOMBEROS
CANCUN Q. ROO**