

Dear Supporters of the Richmond Fire and Rescue Department,

Every day, the volunteers of the Richmond Fire and Rescue Department stand ready to respond when our community needs them most. Whether it's a house fire in the middle of the night, a medical emergency, a severe storm, or a life-threatening accident, our firefighters show up—without hesitation, without compensation, and without ever knowing what the next call will bring. This dedication is the *heart of our community*. And it's why we are reaching out to you today.

We are honored to invite you to support the **6th Annual Catfish Fest**, held February 12–13, 2027, on the Sauk River Chain of Lakes. Catfish Fest brings people to the frozen lake to try to outfish each other and weigh-in the biggest catfish to win cash prizes. The heated tent provides a place for families to warm up with food, drinks, and activities. Our 2026 event had over 400 catfish weighed and entered in the tournament. This two-day, family-friendly fishing competition is more than a beloved local tradition—it is one of the most important fundraisers for our 100% volunteer, 501(c)(3) Fire Relief Association.

Your sponsorship directly strengthens the safety of every resident, family, and visitor in our community.

Why Your Support Matters Now

The demands placed on our department continue to grow. Our volunteers respond to:

- Residential and commercial fires
- Medical and behavioral health emergencies
- Automobile accidents
- Grass fires and storm-related hazards
- Search and rescue missions
- Hazardous materials incidents
- And countless other threats to public safety

To meet these challenges, our firefighters rely on equipment that must be dependable, modern, and safe. This year, we are raising funds to purchase **updated electric fire-fighting equipment** and to **enhance our rescue rigs with additional life-saving tools**. These upgrades are essential—and costly—but they will dramatically improve our ability to protect the people who depend on us.

Your sponsorship helps make these critical improvements possible.

How You Can Make a Difference

By becoming a sponsor of Catfish Fest, you are not simply supporting an event—you are investing in the safety and resilience of our entire community. Every contribution, at every level, brings us closer to equipping our volunteers with the tools they need to save lives.

Please consider selecting one of the sponsorship levels below and returning the completed form by mail or email. You may include your donation or pledge your support and return the signed form with your contact information. Sponsorship level descriptions are provided.

- **Bronze Sponsorship — \$300**
- **Silver Sponsorship — \$600**
- **Gold Sponsorship — \$1,200**
- **Platinum Sponsorship— \$1,500**
- **Weigh Scale Sponsorship (1 available) — \$3,500**
- **Leader Board Sponsorship (1 available) — \$5,500**
- **Tent Sponsorship (1 available) — \$8,500**
- **Prize Donations or Additional Contributions: _____**

I, _____, agree to sponsor at the _____ level for the 2027 Catfish Fest Fundraising Event and will mail my full sponsorship to the address below by January 4, 2027.

Sponsorship checks may be mailed to the address listed below or delivered to any Richmond Fire Department member.

If you would like to participate as a guest vendor or have questions, please contact our planning committee at catfishfestonthechain@gmail.com or call John Schmitz at 320-221-0317.

Thank you for standing with the volunteers who stand ready for all of us. Your generosity truly saves lives.