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NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Former Village of Plainfield Fire Chief Charged for Alleged Theft of More Than \$100,000 from Village

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) today announced that former Village of Plainfield Fire Department Chief Jeffrey M. Kessenich has been charged with two felony counts of theft in a business setting and one count of misdemeanor theft for allegedly stealing \$112,157 from the Village of Plainfield during his time as Plainfield fire chief. Kessenich was arrested last Wednesday and booked into the Waushara County Jail. He was charged on Friday.

According to the criminal complaint, Kessenich is alleged to have stolen Village of Plainfield funds to make personal purchases. Kessenich is alleged to have done so by making unauthorized purchases and unauthorized reimbursements to himself, misappropriating funds, and by moving between different Plainfield Fire Department accounts to cover up the alleged fraud. The conduct described in the criminal complaint is alleged to have begun in December 2023 and continued through September 2025.

DCI initiated its investigation following concerns raised by the Village of Plainfield and the Village of Plainfield Police Department.

These charges are merely accusations. As in any criminal case, the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

This investigation was led by DCI with assistance from the Village of Plainfield Police Department. The Village of Plainfield is cooperating with this investigation. The Waushara County District Attorney's Office is prosecuting the case.