



CITY OF EASTHAMPTON • MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Nicole LaChapelle

August 6, 2021

Immediate Release

Contact: Lindsy Mailler
lmailler@easthamptonma.gov

EASTHAMPTON FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDS FOR NEW AMBULANCE

Easthampton, MA- Mayor Nicole LaChapelle and Fire Chief Christopher Norris announced a federal \$275,000.00 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for a new ambulance. The grant allows the replacement of an ambulance with over 110,000 miles and a used patient compartment body over twenty years old.

Chief Norris stated, "Easthampton residents and firefighters deserve resources that safely and efficiently allow the life-saving skills and therapies during a necessary medical emergency. In uncertain fiscal times, the fire department found alternative funding to offset stress on the city budget. These grant funds will help propel the department forward to meet the growing demands for service and increase the safety of our personnel."

AFG is a nationally competitive grant for fire departments to apply for equipment, training, and vehicles based on risk analysis and vulnerabilities. Each year, approximately 18,000 applications are received, with 200 grants awarded to purchase new vehicles. The old ambulance is on the FY2022 Capital Improvement Plan but will not require the General Fund or borrowing for this purchase.

Mayor LaChapelle said upon hearing the grant news, "Across all city departments, we are tenacious in pursuing grant opportunities to shift funding away from the approved budget and substantial capital items. Congratulations to Chief Norris and his team on submitting a very compelling application."

The department will be working on finalizing the specifications for the new ambulance over the next few weeks. Expected delivery of the new ambulance will be spring of 2022.

###