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Easthampton Fire Department Receives State Grant

Easthampton, MA- The Easthampton Fire Department was recently awarded a grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security in the amount of \$14,000 for the purchase of new protective clothing. This grant was part of the 2022 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program. This program is designed to financially support fire departments across the state with the purchase of needed equipment to help improve the safety of firefighters.

Fire departments in Massachusetts were able to apply to this program for 118 different types of eligible equipment, including personal protective clothing, gear washers and dryers, thermal imaging cameras, assorted hand tools and extrication equipment, communications resources, hazardous gas meters, fitness equipment, and more. In many cases, the purchase of this equipment will help departments attain compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration or National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) safety standards.

Last year, the department was able to outfit all personnel with a full compliant set of personal protective clothing. Many firefighters had different components that were out of date such as boots and helmets. These grant funds will now begin to provide firefighters with a backup set of protective clothing as outlined in the NFPA standards that will enable the firefighters to decontaminate and clean their gear as needed. Occupational cancer continues to negatively impact firefighters across the country from the carcinogens to which these first responders are exposed. This equipment will help Easthampton Fire Department implement industry best practices and help minimize their exposure to these cancer-causing materials they encounter every day at work.

The orders for the new protective clothing will be placed in the upcoming weeks with an expected delivery date of June 2022.

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