



MEDIA RELEASE

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GRFD Receives Assistance to Firefighters Grant to Improve Firefighter Safety

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich – The Grand Rapids Fire Department has been awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the amount of \$1,302,200 for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).

The goal of obtaining this grant project was to immediately improve the health and safety of our firefighters and the community we serve by purchasing new SCBA or masks used to supply firefighters with breathable air during an active fire. Of all the Personal Protection Equipment firefighters put on before entering an atmosphere that is immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH), an SCBA is the most important. The current age of the GRFD's masks is over 10 years of heavy use during training and emergency incidents.

Deputy Fire Chief of Operations Margaret Felix stated that “this grant provides our members with the newest SCBA technology available to deliver superior service to our community”.

This AFG grant is the largest ever received by the Grand Rapids Fire Department. The City of Grand Rapids has a 10% match of \$118,381 towards the \$1,302,200 SCBA replacement cost.

Deputy Fire Chief Sehlmeier shared “there was a great team effort preparing this grant under the direction of Firefighter Ryan Sparks who authored the AFG grant”.

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