



Arlington Fire District

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For Emergencies
DIAL 911

“Safeguarding Our Community”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2, 2021

Arlington Fire District Awarded \$51,000 Grant

The Arlington Fire District has been notified by Senator Schumer’s office that they have been selected to receive a grant in the amount of \$51,690.48, under the Assistance to Firefighters – Supplemental grant program. This grant program was created by FEMA as part of the Federal CARES Act, in response to the COVID-19 national pandemic. These grant funds will be used for the reimbursement and future purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) for 1st responders, and for disinfecting/sterilization supplies and equipment. PPE covered by the grant includes N95 masks, medical gloves, disposable coveralls, face shields, and other devices worn by 1st responders.

According to Fire Chief William Steenbergh, “Being able to keep our Paramedics and EMTs safe, while providing the highest possible levels of emergency medical care to the community goes directly to the heart of what we do here each and every day. We typically treat more than 500 patients every month in Arlington. Throughout the most recent surge of the pandemic locally, more than 40% of our patients were either exhibiting symptoms of COVID or were already known to be positive for the virus. At the beginning of the pandemic about a year ago, we instituted a stringent program for disinfecting and sterilizing our fire stations and apparatus. That program continues today, and will continue into the future. N95 masks, which cost 65 cents prior to the pandemic, are now more than \$3.50 each; if you can even find them to purchase. The quantities of PPE and cleaning supplies that we are using to protect our members and the community far exceeds our budgets. This grant will provide reimbursement for much of these unbudgeted expenses. It will also allow additional purchases over the next year, to maintain our readiness and provide the necessary levels of personal protection going forward. We are most grateful to FEMA for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, and for selecting our application for funding.”