



Powhatan County Fire and Rescue Department



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POWHATAN FIRE & RESCUE RECIEVES \$459,419 AFG GRANT

Federal grant to replace ageing breathing apparatus.

Powhatan – The Powhatan County Fire & Rescue Department has been awarded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency with a \$459,419 Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) to fund the replacement of 66 of the department’s oldest self-contained breathing apparatus.

“Upgrading of equipment and apparatus for the safety of our members is always a priority”, said Fire and Rescue Chief Steven Singer. “The AFG process is very competitive. This funding will help us replace the majority of our self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) which are over 15 years old”, Singer said.

The Department is hoping the County Board of Supervisors will fund the remainder of the SCBA project in this year’s Capital Improvement Plan. The \$142,000 earmarked within the CIP would provide the required grant match and funding to replace the remaining 14 SCBA not covered within the grant. “Those units, while over 9 years, did not meet the age requirement of the grant”, said Singer.

The AFG award is the largest so far this grant cycle to a Virginia department. In 2016, the Department received a \$533,000 SAFER grant from FEMA to assist in the recruitment and retention of volunteer members. Singer explained the Department is always looking to maximize their grant potential and secure funding from outside sources. “Emergency services and equipment are expensive, but priceless when they are needed to be used. We apply to every opportunity we can”, he said

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About Assistance to Firefighters Grants

The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated Emergency Medical Services (EMS) organizations, and State Fire Training Academies (SFTA). This funding is for critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operations efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience. <https://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program>

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