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State Fire Marshal Awarded More Than \$360K in Federal Funding to Update Vital Training Equipment

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) — More than \$360,000 in federal funding was recently awarded to the Ohio Department of Commerce’s Division of State Fire Marshal to upgrade essential equipment used for training thousands of first responders at the Ohio Fire Academy.

The Department of Homeland Security’s Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) will provide the State Fire Marshal’s office \$361,307.82 to replace 39 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), five SCBA fill stations and two cascade systems, and purchase new battery powered hydraulic rescue tools that are stronger than previous equipment.

“Last year, we trained more than 11,000 firefighters from all across the state of Ohio,” said State Fire Marshal Jeff Hussey. “Training so many students throughout the year means our equipment is exposed to exponentially more wear and tear than those in many fire departments. This grant will ensure we can train our students with modern, state-of-the-art equipment so they can better protect their communities.”

This funding, which comes from a highly competitive portion of the AFG grant program specifically for state fire training facilities, will benefit more than 53,000 firefighters and EMS personnel throughout the state.

The State Fire Marshal’s office will provide a 15-percent match for the grant, making the grand total \$415,504.

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