

CITY OF WASHBURN
119 Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 638
Washburn, WI 54891



715-373-6160
715-373-6161
FAX 715-373-6148

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CITY OF WASHBURN AWARDED FEMA GRANT FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT GEAR

Mayor Richard Avol and Fire Chief Michael Pedersen announced today that the City of Washburn has been awarded a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant for new turn out gear (clothing and safety equipment used during calls) for the firefighters. The grant amount is for \$56,000 and the City match is \$2,800.

According to Al Krause, a firefighter who wrote the grant application, the current turnout gear is 18-14 years old and the gear should not be more than seven (7) to 10 years old. "This is very good news," stated Avol, "This grant provides a much-needed update to the gear that our firefighters need to keep them safe, and it helps the City meet its immediate needs with a very tight budget." When asked about the success of the application, Pedersen observed, "We have applied for this in the past and were not successful, but we kept trying and have met the criteria necessary."

It is anticipated that once all of the grant agreements are finalized, the order can be placed for new equipment. "This grant will help our fire department increase the safety of each of our firefighters by providing updated turnout gear for each member. The gear is not fitted for the current members and no longer meets NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) standards. Turnout gear is used on virtually all calls that the fire department responds to," stated Krause.

Both Avol and Pedersen were grateful to U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin for supporting Washburn's application. We are also grateful for the volunteer efforts of Al Krause for writing the grant application and going through the application process.

The Washburn Fire Department is a paid-on-call organization that relies on the dedication of its members to volunteer for the good of the organization and for the well-being of the community. If you are a dedicated local resident that is willing to serve on the Washburn Fire Department, you can attend a fire department meeting on the first or third Monday of the month to learn more.

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Contact: Scott J. Kluver, City Administrator
Phone: 715-373-6160 x 4
Email: washburnadmin@cityofwashburn.org