



MEDIA RELEASE

Western Springs Department of Fire and EMS Receives \$32,519 Federal Grant

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WESTERN SPRINGS, IL. September 1, 2021. The effectiveness of firefighters in Western Springs will be enhanced thanks to a \$32,519 grant awarded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program, the Western Springs Department of Fire and EMS announced today.

The AFG Program awards grants directly to fire departments for the purpose of enhancing the health and safety of first responders and improving their ability to protect the public. FEMA awards grants on a highly competitive basis to applicants that best address the AFG Program's priorities and provide the most compelling justification.

For the Village of Western Springs, the funding will help provide rescue spreaders (also known as the "Jaws of Life"), rescue cutters, spreading rams, and specialized vehicle stabilization tools that will allow Village firefighters to more safely and effectively extricate victims entrapped in serious motor vehicle accidents.

"We are extremely happy to be awarded this AFG grant," said Western Springs Fire Chief Mike Kelly, "This equipment, which will be carried on our front-line apparatus, will be critical to our rescue response to vehicle accidents and entrapments. The portability of the equipment coupled with its advanced capability to handle the latest in car design and technology will allow our firefighters to remove trapped victims as quickly and safely as possible, even in the toughest of environments."



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For more information contact: Public Information Officer: Fire Chief Mike Kelly

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