



Department
of Commerce

NEWS RELEASE

John R. Kasich, Governor

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STATE FIRE MARSHAL AWARDS \$1.6 MILLION IN GRANTS TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS

The Ohio Department of Commerce Division of State Fire Marshal wants to make sure local fire departments have the equipment and training they need to safeguard lives and property in Ohio. State Fire Marshal Larry Flowers and his team have awarded Ohio fire departments 103 equipment grants totaling \$1,054,894, and 286 training grants totaling \$635,126 this year.

The purpose of the program is to offset the cost of both training and equipment to local governments in the state of Ohio.

“This program allows Ohio’s fire departments to get better training for their first responders so they can protect their citizens more effectively. The equipment grants also help departments keep their firefighters safe during emergency situations,” said Commerce Director Andre Porter.

Marshal Flowers has awarded grant money to numerous departments during his ‘Listening Tour’ as he travels the state to meet with first responders. The tour is important to the Marshal so that he can thank Ohio’s fire service for being the driving force in last year’s lowest number of fire-related fatalities in 27 years. He believes getting firefighters the right training and equipment will lead to even fewer fatalities in the future.

“These firefighters must have the right tools to perform their jobs,” said Marshal Flowers. “We want to make sure each responder will be able to serve fully and return home safely at the end of an emergency. This grant will help enable that.”

The grant and loan programs, along with the other services offered by the Division of State Fire Marshal, demonstrate the ongoing partnership at the state and local levels. The support of the Ohio General Assembly and the current Administration has been instrumental in funding these initiatives.

Local fire departments chosen for the grants were selected based on a variety of criteria, including the fire department’s annual budget, annual number of fire incidents and the resident population served by the department.

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