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PRESS RELEASE

Powell – April 12, 2010: The Liberty Township Fire Department Powell, Ohio in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Assistance to Firefighters Act Grant is pleased to announce its grant award in the amount of $675,502. This grant was applied for in May of 2009 by firefighter/paramedic Mickey Smith, a six year member of the Liberty Township Fire Department

This grant was written in order to fund two significantly large and expensive fire department initiatives, without creating a tremendous burden on the fire departments already strained operating budget. This grant requires the fire department to contribute the first 10% of the funding ($67,550) as a match. This was paid for by the fire department without requesting any additional monies from the tax payers of Liberty Township and Powell.

It is our goal at the fire department to use this grant in four ways.

1. To bring the department into compliance with the Ohio Administrative code by creating a health and wellness program for every member of the fire department. Over the next year, this funding ($54,400) will provide each member of the department with a complete National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) compliant physical.
2. In conjunction with the above, an additional $96,000 in grant funding will be used to purchase two complete sets of weight lifting and cardiovascular equipment (1 set per station)
3. Additionally, $4,500 of funding will be used to send at minimum 3 personnel to school to become Certified Fitness Coordinators. These coordinators will then be responsible to train the rest of the members of the department in the realms of proper nutrition, a personalized workout routine, and the correct usage of all of the new equipment.
4. The bulk of the funds $520,602 will be used to equip all of the current and future traffic signals in Liberty Township and Powell. As well it will equip all of the fire and medical vehicles with state of the art Department of Defense based satellite radio GPS pre-emption equipment. This equipment when activated will allow the fire department vehicles to always have the right of way and be able to pass through any intersection on a green light. This action will insure the safety of all drivers and vastly reduce the possibility of an emergency vehicle and private citizen collision at busy intersections. Thus, reducing the probability of loss of life or serious physical injury to

emergency service personnel as well as the citizens that we are called to serve. Across the country the installation and usage of this equipment has been shown to reduce overall response times by up to 1 ½ minutes.

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