



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Dana Woodson  
Public Affairs Officer  
757-393-5143

## **City of Portsmouth Fire Department Receives Assistance to Firefighters Grant From the Department of Homeland Security Grant**

**(PORTSMOUTH, VA – SEPTEMBER 25, 2019)** – The Portsmouth Fire Rescue and Emergency Services Department has been awarded a \$630,000 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The purpose of the AFG Program is to protect the health and safety of the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments. Among the fire department's plans include replacing obsolete front-line Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment and purchasing a new SCBA fill station, which will be able to fill three bottles simultaneously and features numerous safety features.

"Our first responders work daily to protect lives and property. We are delighted that our application met FEMA's project guidelines," said Fire Chief James E. Hoffler. "This federal grant will enable us to significantly upgrade critical firefighting gear." Chief Hoffler added that the department will also be able to purchase a second breathing air compressor and new standard high heat SCBA face-pieces.

The AFG Program supports fire departments across the country to ensure the safety of both first responders and the public. The program provides for supplemental training, upgrades to protective equipment, facility modifications, and other supplies that protect firefighter and first responder personnel during an emergency event. The AFG Program, also known as fire grants or the FIRE Act grant program, was established by Title XVII of the FY2001 National Defense Authorization Act. Currently administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), AFG also supports fire prevention projects and firefighter health and safety research.

For more information, contact Fire Chief James E. Hoffler at 757-393-8765.

# # #

### **Marketing and Communications**

801 Crawford Street • 5th Floor • Portsmouth, VA 23704  
Office: (757) 393-5143 • Fax: (757) 393-8943 • Web Address: [www.portsmouthva.gov](http://www.portsmouthva.gov)