

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

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SUFFOLK FIRE & RESCUE ANNOUNCES RECEIPT OF \$3.4 MILLION FEMA GRANT TO HIRE FIREFIGHTERS

SUFFOLK, VA (September 13, 2021) Suffolk Fire & Rescue has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$3,410,000 from the Department of Homeland Security through the Fiscal Year 2020 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program to hire 18 additional firefighters.

The funding, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is part of a total of \$355 million dollars awarded to an estimated 300 Fire Departments across the country intended to assist in the increase of the number of firefighters to meet industry minimum standards and to attain 24-hour staffing to provide adequate fire protection from fire and fire-related hazards.

Upon learning of the grant award, Chief Michael Barakey noted, "Suffolk Fire & Rescue is excited to receive the SAFER grant award. Funding from the grant will allow Suffolk Fire & Rescue to provide the citizens of Suffolk with even further reduced response times and a more effective emergency response."

The 18 Firefighters hired with the SAFER grant will come onboard later this year, and will supplement the needed 36 Firefighters for the opening of a new North Suffolk Fire & Rescue Station to be located in the Harbour View area of Suffolk.

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