

HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MAYOR

WESTON WAMP

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Mary Francis Hoots, 615-815-8424

Half-A-Million Dollars Proposed to be Awarded to Volunteer Fire Departments to Improve Emergency Response in Hamilton County

Hamilton County Mayor Weston Wamp and the Hamilton County Office of Emergency Management today announced six emergency response agencies will receive additional funding, pending approval by the Hamilton County Commission next week. This year's budget set aside \$500,000 for capital and operational needs to volunteer fire departments and rescue services – in addition to a 10 percent increase in the amount allocated to each individual department, for an overall 30 percent increase in funding to VFDs.

In late July, Mayor Wamp opened applications to volunteer fire departments and rescue service agencies in Hamilton County to seek funding on projects that will benefit the county. The applications were then reviewed by an independent committee composed of Hamilton County government and non-government officials to make suggestions to the mayor on which departments will be awarded the funds.

“We made a record commitment in this year's budget to ensure our volunteer fire departments have the necessary equipment and training to continue the critical services they provide in the unincorporated parts of Hamilton County,” said Mayor Wamp. “A thorough assessment of grant applications was conducted by some of our county's finest public servants to be certain these funds are put to their highest and best use. We are fortunate to have hundreds of dedicated members of our community volunteer their time and put their lives on the line to protect the citizens of Hamilton County, and I look forward to our continued partnership going forward.”

Proposal of Grant Disbursement:

Tri-Community Volunteer Fire Department: \$79,000 for emergency pagers

Dallas Bay Volunteer Fire Department: \$95,000 for emergency generator and firefighting equipment

Waldens Ridge Emergency Service: \$85,000 for a rescue vehicle

Sale Creek Volunteer Fire Department: \$90,000 for rescue equipment

Highway 58 Volunteer Fire Department: \$79,000 for thermal imaging systems, AEDs, and other equipment

Mowbray Volunteer Fire Department: \$72,000 for operational and staffing costs

“While there were difficult decisions to be made, I appreciate Mayor Wamp for putting a process in place to ensure tax dollars are going to agencies with considerable needs,” said Commissioner Gene-O Shipley. “We are grateful to all volunteer fire departments who have graciously devoted their time to serving others, and we will continue to engage with each agency to meet the needs of the community.”

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