



Haverhill Firefighters Local 1011

*Affiliated with the International Association of Firefighters AFL-CIO CLC
& The Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts*

September 23, 2023

Timothy Carroll
President

Eric Sullivan
Vice President

Ryan Fairbanks
Secretary

Stephen Ryan
Treasurer

Christopher Salamone
Sergeant at Arms

Subject: F.E.M.A. Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant

The Haverhill Firefighters of the IAFF Local 1011 would like to thank Fire Chief Robert O'Brien, our U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives, our State Senators and State Representatives, our Haverhill City Councilors, the International Association of Fire Fighters, and the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts. Along with a special thanks to our amateur fire department grant writers James Bizeur, Brian Ray, Ryan Fairbanks, Michael Foustoukos, and Timothy Carroll, led by Richard Shellene.

Five years ago, the IAFF Local 1011 stood in front of the Haverhill City Council and presented them with a plan to incrementally increase staffing levels to eventually provide the residents of Haverhill with a desperately needed second ladder truck staffed in Bradford. Proving a need for a second ladder truck on the basis of our call volume, the abundance of current high-rise buildings, and the more approved to be built in the city, Haverhill was far below the national staffing standard.

After researching and writing the grant, our local firefighter grant team, with an endorsement from Haverhill's mayor, submitted an application for funding a fully-staffed ladder truck in March 2023. Our grant application, with the backing of our elected leaders, requested 16 firefighters to staff a second ladder in order to help Haverhill meet the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710 standard in continuation with previous staffing increases at both High Street and Water Street. Combined with previous staffing increases, this grant will soon allow Haverhill to meet the 80% threshold set forth by the NFPA for responses and response times sometime next year. **The FEMA SAFER Grant gives the City of Haverhill \$4.1 million to be spent over three years, covering 100% of the salaries and benefits of 16 firefighters.** Upon the expiration of the grant, we look forward to working with local leaders to continue to staff the much-needed ladder truck in Bradford. At an approximate cost of \$1.4–\$1.6 million annually for these firefighters moving forward in the 4th year, FY2028 will be the first full fiscal year the city will need to realize the cost of these critical firefighters at about 0.6% of the current total annual city budget.

We look forward to continuing our work with the Haverhill City Council, the Federal and State Legislature, and Haverhill's next mayor to continue to find solutions for these fiscal hurdles, including additional grants. Haverhill Firefighters IAFF Local 1011 have and will always fight for the safety of the residents in our great city. We know that many of the past years haven't been easy, but we believe the best is yet to come for Haverhill, its firefighters, and the residents we are here to protect.

Faithfully,

Your Haverhill Firefighters

75 Kenoza Avenue
Haverhill, MA 01830

Tel: (978) 914-9380

Haverhillfirefighters.org

