

EDWARD J. MARKEY
MASSACHUSETTS

SUITE SD-255
DIRKSEN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2107
202-224-2742

United States Senate

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April 22, 2022

Ms. Pamela Williams
Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs
Federal Emergency Management Agency
400 C Street, S.W., 3N
Washington, D.C. 20472-3635

Dear Administrator Williams:

I write to express my support for the Lawrence Fire Department's application (UEI-EFT: ZNYSFMUYHH53) for an FY2021 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). If awarded, Lawrence Fire plans to use these funds to replace a 1996 E-ONE Quint Ladder Truck and train their staff to safety standards that meet National Fire Protection Association 1901 compliance.

Lawrence is one of the fastest-growing and most diverse cities in Massachusetts, but it is deeply economically disadvantaged, with among the highest poverty rates and lowest per capita median household incomes in the state. This economic strain in an increasingly densely populated community has meant that Lawrence Fire faces an expanding need for emergency services at a time when municipal funding remains limited. As a result, the department relies heavily on aging vehicles, which require costly repairs and pose growing risks to firefighters and to the residents of Lawrence. Funding a new Quint Ladder Truck and accompanying NFPA 1901 training, which the department reports would not be possible through municipal allocations in the near future, would allow firefighters to safely respond to emergencies in the city's many triple-decker residences that necessitate use of a ladder truck.

These AFG funds would offer needed support to the Lawrence Fire Department to ensure the health and safety of their department and the community they serve. I ask that you give their application your full and fair consideration. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator