

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 3, 2020

Mr. Christopher P. Logan
Acting Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs
Grant Programs Directorate
U.S. Department of Homeland Security / FEMA
400 C Street S.W., 3N
Washington, D.C. 20472-3635

Dear Assistant Administrator Logan,

I write in support of the application submitted by the Town of Gorham Fire Department for \$142,500 from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. Funding will be used to purchase 20 SCBA packs to replace equipment that is non-compliant with current NFPA 1981 standards. These upgrades will enhance the safety of Gorham firefighters and, in turn, citizens of the town and region.

The Gorham Fire Department is staffed by a mix of 35 paid/on-call fire/EMS personnel responsible for covering a first-due response area of 496 square miles. This area includes seven unincorporated townships in New Hampshire's Coös County as well as many critical pieces of infrastructure, including the summit of Mount Washington, two heavily-traveled roads and multiple energy pipelines. The town is also home to many summer and winter recreational opportunities, which can surge the population to over 15,000 on some weekends. In 2019, the department responded to 859 calls in its first-due area. It also provides mutual aid response to neighboring communities.

With support from the AFG program, the Gorham Fire Department will purchase new SCBAs to replace current SCBA that is 20 years-old and non-compliant with current standards. This aging equipment lacks required safety features that personnel need to work confidently in unpredictable fire conditions. When issues arise with its SCBA, the department is finding it difficult to get parts due to the age of the gear. With new and improved equipment, Gorham firefighters can confidently perform their duties and continue to provide efficient and safe emergency services to the town's residents.

Federal funding will immediately address these safety hazards and improve the well-being of Gorham firefighters. I support the AFG application from the Gorham Fire Department and urge your serious consideration of its worthy proposal. If you have any questions, please contact Jon Jarvis from my staff at (603) 647-7500. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator