



# PLAISTOW FIRE DEPARTMENT

## PRESS RELEASE

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Chris Knutsen, Fire Chief

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 13, 2020.

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Fire Chief

Plaistow Fire Department

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### PLAISTOW FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDED DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE GRANT

PLAISTOW, NH – The Plaistow Fire Department has been awarded and accepted a competitive grant from the New Hampshire Department of Justice for \$126,592.25. The Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding program was established to assist law enforcement and other first responders in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus pandemic.

In response to the State of New Hampshire, Office of the Governor, Executive Order 2020-04 issued on March 13, 2020, Fire Chief Chris Knutsen immediately implemented several changes to the Plaistow Fire Department's response capabilities to prepare for the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. An advanced online training platform was purchased to maintain continuity for preparation, continuing education, and readiness. Two on-duty personnel were added from 6:00 pm-6:00 am to provide for pre-hospital emergency medical care, and specialized decontamination equipment was purchased. Specific COVID-19 policies/procedures were authored and adopted to protect our first responders and the public.

These necessary changes had a negative financial impact on the operating budget and, therefore, qualified for grant funding opportunities. The awarded funds will entirely reimburse the following expenditures relieving the local community taxpayers from this burden.

- I. Personnel (\$122,335.50)
- II. Equipment (\$1,547.75)
- III. Training (\$2,709.00)

The Plaistow Fire Department on behalf of the town would like to thank the NH Department of Justice, Governor Sununu, and Attorney General MacDonald for this financial support opportunity.

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