



## **TOWN OF HOPEDALE**

78 Hopedale Street - P.O. Box 7  
Hopedale, Massachusetts 01747

Tel: 508-634-2203 X213 Fax: 508-634-2200  
[www.hopedale-ma.gov](http://www.hopedale-ma.gov)

**Mitch F. Ruscitti, MPA**  
Town Administrator

Contact: Mitch Ruscitti, Town Administrator

Email: [mruscitti@hopedale-ma.gov](mailto:mruscitti@hopedale-ma.gov)

Phone: (508) 902-7668

### **PRESS RELEASE: TOWN OF HOPEDALE RECEIVES \$184,000 GRANT FROM FY22 FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT**

**Hopedale, MA 8/30/23** – The Town of Hopedale announced today that that Hopedale Fire Department received a \$184,000 award from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) *Assistance to Firefighters Grant* program, which will allow the town to purchase state of the art Firefighting Equipment and modify the Hopedale Fire Station with an exhaust capturing system and remote radios, while also providing for increased training for the town’s firefighting force.

Congressman Auchincloss, who represents the town of Hopedale in Congress MA-04, said of the grant: “our firefighters deserve top-of-the-line equipment and training, and I’ll continue to support public safety for Hopedale in my work in Washington.” This award notice comes on the heels of an official visit from the Congressman, along with Hopedale’s other elected representatives, Senator Ryan Fattman and Representative Brian Murray on 8/8/23 to discuss and offer support for ongoing local initiatives. “It has been a concerted effort both at the state and federal level to bring whatever resources possible to Hopedale,” said Representative Murray (D. Milford). “This latest award is further evidence of that work” When reached about the grant, Senator Fattman (R-Sutton) had this to say: “I am grateful for FEMA’s recognition of the vital services that the Hopedale Fire Department provides to the town. This grant will be highly beneficial to the safety and well-being of our first responders. As our first line of defense against disaster, we must do all that we can to equip them with the most updated technology, training, and equipment.” Of the award, Hopedale Select Board Chair Glenda Hazard said “grants like these are critical to small towns like Hopedale where funding is limited. We will continue to pursue these types of grants that allow us to enhance safety and services to our residents.”

Longtime Hopedale Fire Chief Tom Daige echoed the sentiments expressed by Chairwoman Hazard that these types of awards are crucial in communities like Hopedale, that had recently passed a Proposition 2 ½ override. “Grants like this allow us to continue to provide the level of service that Hopedale residents have come to expect from this department,” Chief Daige indicated, while adding that “we are thrilled to be able to announce this to our community and at the prospect of equipping my staff with the tools necessary to do the job.” Town Administrator Mitch Ruscitti

added that these types of grants can be used to offset costs to local taxpayers while increasing capacities for service. “This is something that is important for small communities – to work directly with federal and state partners to ensure that our residents are receiving the services they deserve.” Ruscitti also noted that “our [Hopedale] public safety departments have a long track record of working directly with the community to maximize resources, build trust, and get the job done. This is just another example of that hard work paying dividends.”

**FROM FEMA:** *FEMA fire safety grants fund critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel, enhance efficiencies, and support community resilience. Since 2001, Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) have helped firefighters and other first obtain critically needed resources necessary for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.*