

## South Bristol Fire Department receives \$10,000 grant from State Farm

### Submitted article

The South Bristol Fire Department is one of 150 volunteer fire departments across the nation to receive a \$10,000 grant through the State Farm Good Neighbor Firefighter Safety Program.

In collaboration with the National Volunteer Fire Council, State Farm has awarded \$1.5 million in grants to help local fire departments obtain needed equipment to increase their responders' safety, effectiveness and ability to serve their community.

With this grant, the South Bristol Fire Department will be able to purchase new traffic cones, barricades, safety vests, personnel flashlights, and portable telescoping scene lights to greatly improve

safety on traffic scenes, especially at night when it's the most difficult for emergency workers, as well as other motorists to see.

"Our department provides fire protection, emergency medical response, and public safety across both the mainland and several islands accessible only by boat," the department said in its application for the grant. "In 2024, along with our other calls, we responded to 18 motor vehicle accidents and numerous storm-related incidents. These events placed significant strain on our resources, requiring us to deploy traffic cones and barricades to close and secure hazardous roads."

Providing adequate scene lighting at night was also essential

but challenging, underscoring the need for improved equipment, the department added in the application.

"With upgraded equipment, we can reduce response times, better control traffic, prevent secondary accidents, and safeguard our volunteers, many of whom operate with minimal support and in dangerous conditions," said South Bristol Fire Chief Allen Spinney. "Enhanced visibility and scene control will also protect the wider community by making roads safer and reducing disruption during critical incidents."

This is the second year of the State Farm Good Neighbor Firefighter Safety Program. Volunteer fire departments are essential to public safety, especially in rural and small-town communities. However, many operate with limited budgets and struggle to secure the funding for critical equipment. These grants are a lifeline for local departments to obtain equipment that will increase safety, efficiency and effectiveness.

In addition to the grants, State Farm also provided the first 2,000 applicants with a one-year membership to the National Volunteer Fire Council - the leading association representing the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services - so they have access to additional tools, resources, and training to support their continued success.

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