

Local agencies awarded grants for safety, security equipment

(MSC News)--Local area emergency agencies are among a total of 72 statewide receiving a portion of more than \$6.2 million through the Local Safety and Security Equipment grant program.

According to a release from the office of Kansas Governor Laura Kelly, law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, and 911 communications agencies are named as recipients of the grant award. Grant funds are received through the Strengthening People Revitalizing Kansas program, know as SPARK, funded by the federal American Rescue Plan.

Among local recipients are the Atchison Fire Department, receiving \$9,360 dollars and the Hiawatha Police Department, which gains more than \$55,000.

Two Jackson County agencies also benefit, with the County's Sheriff's Office named to receive \$309,044 while Netawaka Rural Fire District 6 gains \$63,450.

In Jefferson County, \$26,550 is designated for the the City of Valley Falls, while the Jefferson County Ambulance Service receives \$75,432, and Jefferson County Fire District Five earns \$51,975.

Three Leavenworth County agencies are named as recipients, including the Fairmount Township Fire Department's take of \$43,177, the Tonganoxie Police Department gains \$29,808, and the Tonganoxie Fire Department earns the same amount.

In Marshall County, the Marysville Police Department is named to receive \$62,640.

In Nemaha County, the Nemaha County Sheriff's Office gains \$350,000 from the grant funds.

Two Pottawatomie County agencies are also chosen for funds, with the County Sheriff's Office set to receive \$103,025, while the Westmoreland Fire Department gains \$134,550.

Officials with the Office of the Governor, in the release, indicated that the purpose of the grant program is to improve the accessibility and efficiency of emergency services to Kansans, with the funding providing equipment upgrades critical to emergency response; supports updated interoperability communications systems; and updates and replaces unsafe, damaged wildland firefighting equipment that meets national standards.

Many Signals Communications