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Romeoville Fire Department Receives \$24,200 Grant

Gov. Pat Quinn and Illinois State Fire Marshal Larry Matkaitis recently announced a \$4 million investment to help fire departments across the state purchase safety equipment, protective clothing, breathing apparatus and other tools for firefighters.

The Village of Romeoville is one of 193 Illinois Communities to receive a fire safety small equipment grant. The Romeoville Fire Department will receive \$24,200.

"First responders need to have the right equipment and tools," Illinois State Fire Marshal Larry Matkaitis said. "This grant program is a critical resource in these tight municipal budget times. The funds help local fire departments acquire basic equipment that meets current safety standards."

The Small Equipment Grants are supported by a small percentage of the sales of all fire insurance sold in Illinois.

The Small Equipment Grant Program provides funds directly to local units of government for the purchase of small equipment by a fire department, fire protection district or township fire department.

The Fire Marshal's office received 389 applications requesting more than two times the total amount of grant funding available this year. The Small Equipment Grant committee, comprised of members of the fire service, examined the applications in a blind review, and recommended the grants that were ultimately awarded. The departments were eligible for grants up to \$26,000.

"We are very fortunate to be awarded such a sizable grant. It will allow the department to purchase new, state-of-the-art portable radios," said Romeoville Fire Chief Kent Adams.