



# COUNTY OF LEHIGH

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## Press Release

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### **Volunteer Fire Organizations And EMS To Be Awarded Relief Funding**

**Lehigh County, PA-** A resolution was recently passed by the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners that will award volunteer fire organizations and Lehigh County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) an estimated \$567,400 in COVID-19 relief funding.

Resolution 2020-82 was organized by Commissioner At-Large Bob Elbich who proposed that the surplus monies from the \$33.3 million COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant benefit the county's fire companies and EMS services. These organizations continue to serve on the frontlines alongside our county's ambulances and healthcare workers, and are in need of equipment among other critical supplies. Funding from this resolution will go towards obtaining decontamination equipment, PPE, and backup turnout gear that will allow firefighters to keep up with the COVID-19 response in their areas.

The resolution was unanimously approved by the Board of Commissioners with full support from Lehigh County Executive Phil Armstrong and his administration. As a result, and after careful consideration, funding has been immediately distributed to these organizations in the following allotments:

- Emmaus Fire Department--\$31,500
- Germansville Fire Company--\$28,000
- Weisenberg Volunteer Fire Department--\$37,500
- New Tripoli Fire Company--\$33,300
- Slatington Volunteer Fire Department--\$24,000
- Macungie Fire Company--\$15,560
- Catasauqua Fire Department--\$30,000
- Neffs Volunteer Fire Company--\$20,000
- All Departments and Lehigh County Emergency Response Digital Data-- \$101,000
- South Whitehall Regional Fire Companies (Woodlawn, Cetronia, and Greenawalds) -- \$83,150
- Schnecksville Fire Company--\$24,000
- Eastern Salisbury Fire Department--\$15,000
- Western Salisbury Fire Company--\$31,000
- TriClover Fire Company--\$18,300
- Lynnport Fire Company--\$15,000
- Emerald Fire Company--\$15,000
- Slatedale Fire Company--\$15,000
- Friedens Fire Company-- \$15,000

Additionally, Lehigh County EMS will receive a mobile software application, "CrewForce", a companion app that communicates the county's existing Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. This app, which will be available on smartphones and tablets in all county emergency vehicles, will allow Fire and EMS workers to view in real-time all critical information regarding the incident scene and any reported hazards, such as COVID-19.

This real-time information will allow for patient confidentiality, along with streamlining the process of notifying the first responders of hazards that may place their safety at risk. Currently, Lehigh County volunteer fire and emergency medical providers must contact the 9-1-1 Communications Center by telephone to be provided these critical details. With the help of this new technology, Lehigh County EMS and local fire organizations will be able to streamline the communications process more efficiently and effectively when responding to a situation.

It is through the hopes of Resolution 2020-82 that local fire organizations and county EMS services receive the financial support they need as they continue to carry out their services to the public. The County of Lehigh commends these organizations for their dedicated service throughout the year and is honored to award these funds.

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