

PRESS RELEASE—Contact DSPS Newsroom at dspnewsroom@wisconsin.gov

**September 19, 2022
DSPS Communications
608-220-1553**

DSPS Gives Check for Nearly \$110,000 to Hartford Fire Department
Part of \$28 million distributed through the state Fire Dues program

Hartford, WI -- Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) Secretary-designee Dan Hereth presented a ceremonial check for nearly \$110,000 to Hartford Fire & Rescue Chief Paul Stephans Tuesday afternoon, in front of an impressive backdrop. The men stood in front of a brand new fire engine, the cost of which was offset by Fire Dues funding.

“The engine you see behind us, we took delivery of 90 minutes ago. It’s brand new from a manufacturer in Wisconsin,” Chief Stephans told a small group, including several members of the Hartford Fire Department, gathered for the check presentation. “What better way to promote a program like the Fire Dues program than to put something like this beautiful piece of equipment on display for all to see.”

This year, Wisconsin fire departments [received \\$28.3 million](#) through the program.

“A large number of the fire departments in Wisconsin are completely or largely volunteer, and this funding goes a long way towards keeping Wisconsin firefighters well-equipped and safe, and also keeping the communities they serve safe,” said Secretary-designee Hereth. “We’re proud to play a part in this program, and we’re certainly blessed to have good partners like Chief Stephans and (Hartford) Mayor (Tim) Machalek in terms of keeping our citizens safe.”

The Fire Dues program requires insurers to pay 2% of premiums collected for insurance against loss from fires. The Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance collects the dues, and DSPS distributes the dues to cities, towns and villages across the state according to a prescribed formula.

The Fire Dues program is a significant source of funding for state fire departments, which use the money to buy and replace equipment, operate fire prevention programming, train crews and more.

“In 2022, we (ordered and) purchased this fire truck. We received approximately \$110,000 in Fire Dues funding to help offset the cost of the fire truck,” Chief Stephans explained. “It really helps offset the cost of operating a fire department.”

In addition to administering the Fire Dues program, DSPS regulates firefighter health and safety, and manages Wisconsin’s [fire prevention program](#). DSPS also launched a youth firefighter

training grant program in 2022 to help address recruitment and retention challenges in the fire service. Grants were awarded to local fire departments in [2022](#) and again in [2023](#).

About DSPS: DSPS issues more than 240 unique licenses, administers dozens of boards and councils that regulate professions, enforces state building codes, and maintains the Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which is a key tool in the multi-faceted public health campaign to stem excessive opioid prescribing. A fee-based agency, DSPS is self-sustaining and receives no general fund tax dollars for its day-to-day operations. With five offices and 250 employees throughout Wisconsin, DSPS collaborates with constituents and stakeholders across a wide range of industries to promote safety and advance the economy.

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