

# Grants better equip Jeromesville Fire Department

By Kristi Schweitzer / Staff writer

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From left, Lt. Brandon Glass, Chief John Cutlip, Capt. Mike Householder, firefighter Tyler Elliott, Chief Todd Elliott and firefighter Ben Raudebaugh stand around the rescue boat purchased from the Ashland County Community Foundation, along with two of the bulletproof vests from the UH Samaritan Foundation. - Noelle Bye, Times-Gazette.com

JEROMESVILLE - The Jeromesville Fire Department has had a good year thanks to area support.

From purchasing a rescue boat to special bulletproof vests to a grain-bin Res-Q-Tube and more through grants and donations, the fire department is thankful for the community's generosity.

"It was a good year," Fire Chief Todd Elliott said. "We're blessed to have received the equipment we did last year, which helps save taxpayers' dollars to use towards other stuff we can buy that we can't get grants for. I'm very appreciative of that."

For years, the fire department has needed a rescue boat for its flood-susceptible areas and now through a \$4,000 grant from the **Ashland County Community Foundation** they purchased one in November.

"We don't have large bodies of water, but we have a lot of flooding, a lot of areas that flood when we get heavy rains and that will help rescue people ... In the years past we borrowed boats to help us out down here, so now we've got our own," Elliott said.

In October, they received another \$1,000 from the Samaritan Hospital Foundation, which they used along with a \$2,500 anonymous donation to purchase six bulletproof vests.

“We are so grateful for all of our fire/EMTs employees/volunteers, in our community, that help protect the lives of those that live in Ashland County,” Mona Campbell, the foundation’s grants and community relations director, said via email. “We appreciate that the funds were used to help protect those who serve us.”

Through the generosity of the Hillsdale High School FFA, the fire department received a grain-bin Res-Q-Tube along with ropes and rigging to use for grain-bin rescues.

Last summer, FFA students, Hannah Way and Alyssa Crytzer, applied for and received a \$5,000 Agriculture Rural Community Outreach Program grant, which they used to purchase the equipment for the fire department. The FFA was one of 12 schools in the state to receive the grant.

Additionally, Crop Production Services purchased a auger system to go along with the grain rescue equipment, at an approximate value of \$700.

Last year, fire department also purchased a gear extractor to safety wash fire gear, 30 pairs of firefighter gloves and 30 hoods through a \$14,225 Firefighter Exposure to Environmental Elements grant.

Through a \$5,525 Ohio Department of Public Safety grant, they purchased EMS supplies, and equipment including new intubation equipment. Some of the funds went toward EMS training as well.

For their generosity, the fire department invites the community out to its official Jeromesville Fire Department Community Appreciation Day Saturday Aug. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the fire station. The event will include free food, fire extinguisher demonstrations, smoke alarm sign-ups and more.

The fire department also thanks those who give donations throughout the year.

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