



Department  
of Commerce

# NEWS RELEASE

John R. Kasich, Governor

Andre T. Porter, Director  
Department of Commerce

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## MARTINS FERRY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES LOAN TO BETTER PREPARE TO SAVE LIVES AND PROPERTY

The Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal is doing its part to keep Ohio communities safe by lending a helping hand to Ohio fire departments through the Revolving Loan Program. \$41,000 has been awarded to the Martins Ferry Volunteer Fire Department in Martins Ferry, Belmont County.

The loan program, created in 1993 by the Ohio General Assembly, assists local governments in funding certain fire department major expenses. It can be used to expedite the purchase of firefighting, rescue or EMS equipment and can also be used for the construction or renovation of fire department buildings.

“This unique loan program allows the State of Ohio to provide lifesaving tools and better working conditions to the first responders our communities rely on for safety each and every day,” said Commerce Director Andre Porter.

Loans such as these will continue to be offered to fire departments throughout the state as part of the budget for the new biennium passed by the Ohio General Assembly and recently signed by Governor John R. Kasich. In addition to the Revolving Loan Program, the budget contains funding for training and equipment grants, including an additional \$500,000 for firefighter training. These loan and grant programs are designed to offset the cost to local governments.

“This fire department will now be able to purchase equipment that will assist them in performing their firefighting duties,” said State Fire Marshal Larry Flowers. “This loan helps them achieve a goal that otherwise would have been out of reach.”

Fire departments are selected based on a variety of criteria, including the fire department’s annual budget, annual number of fire incidents and the resident population served by the fire department.

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