

**Contact:**

John F. Holland  
Public Information Officer  
920-236-5249  
920-379-3525 (Mobile)  
[jholland@ci.oshkosh.wi.us](mailto:jholland@ci.oshkosh.wi.us)

**For Immediate Release****MEDIA RELEASE**

---

**DATE: July 10, 2023**

**Grant Program to Increase Diversity in Fire and EMS  
Oshkosh Fire Department, Firefighter ABC's, and Fox Valley Technical College  
partner on a new program**

(Oshkosh, WI) -- The Oshkosh Fire Department, Firefighter ABC's and Fox Valley Technical College are partnering together on a grant program that will help remove obstacles for underrepresented groups so they can pursue careers in firefighting and emergency medical services.

This collaboration was made possible by a generous donation from a private organization. The goal of the partnership is to help prepare qualified candidates to enter the field while increasing the diversity within the profession.

"Something that we are striving for is to have our department be reflective of our community members," says Michael Stanley, fire chief of Oshkosh Fire Department. "By being able to help supplement funding for tuition to women and other typically underrepresented groups we hope to help remove a potential obstacle that may limit someone's potential to pursue their dreams and goals of joining the fire department."

The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) reported that in 2020 only 9% of firefighters in the United States were female. Nationally, the most common ethnicity for firefighters is white, accounting for 76.8%. Firefighter ABC's has been an industry leader in creating a focused effort to improve representation for all social segments and formed the Firefighter Diversity Recruitment Council which the Oshkosh Fire Department is a member of.

The Oshkosh Fire Department, Firefighter ABC's and Fox Valley Technical College are pleased to partner on this and look forward to the success of the program.

For more information on this program please contact Fire Chief Mike Stanley at [mstanley@ci.oshkosh.wi.us](mailto:mstanley@ci.oshkosh.wi.us) or 920-236-5240. For those interested in applying for the grant please visit the Oshkosh Fire Department's website at [www.oshkoshfd.com](http://www.oshkoshfd.com).

###