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CITY OF AMESBURY CITY OF AMESBURY, MA
IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

SPONSORED BY:


Kassandra Gove, Mayor

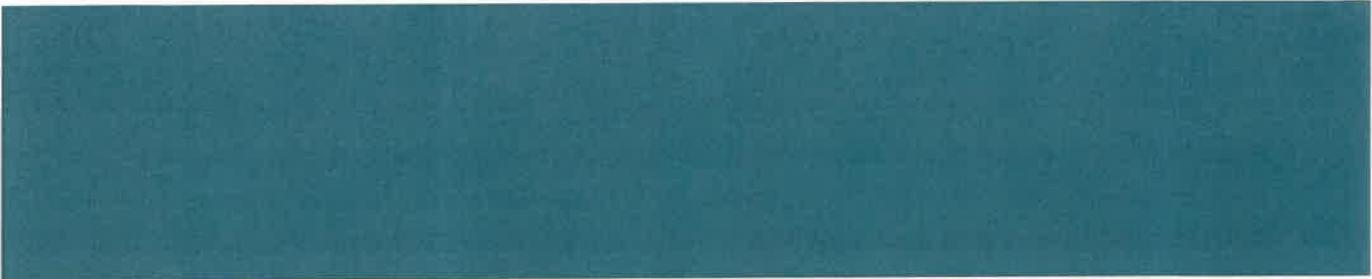
BILL No. 2026-034

An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend the Last Call Foundation grant in the amount of \$24,060 to support the purchase of personal escape systems for the Amesbury Fire Department.

Summary: This grant award will be used to purchase 40 Personal Safety Rope Systems (PSS) to equip every uniformed firefighter with NFPA-compliant escape tools for rapid self-rescue from elevated hazards. The new PSS equipment will enhance personal safety, reduce evacuation risks, and align with NFPA 1500 standards.

Be it Ordered by the City Council of the City of Amesbury assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

That the City of Amesbury authorizes the Mayor to accept and expend the Last Call Foundation grant in the amount of \$24,060 to support the purchase of personal escape systems for the Amesbury Fire Department.



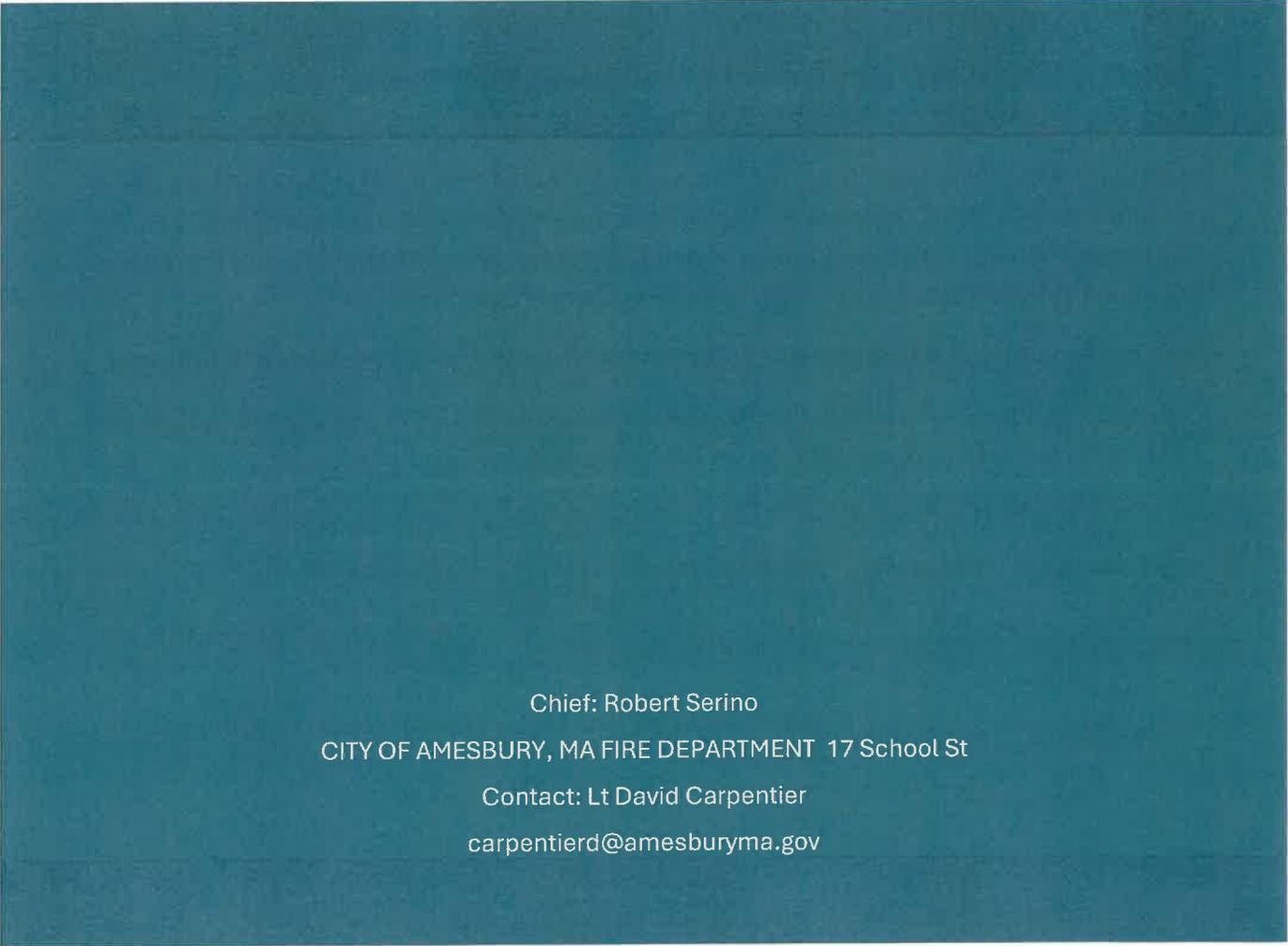
**Last Call Foundation Grant Application Enhancing Firefighter Safety through Personal
Escape Systems for the Amesbury Fire Department**

Chief: Robert Serino

CITY OF AMESBURY, MA FIRE DEPARTMENT 17 School St

Contact: Lt David Carpentier

carpentierd@amesburyma.gov



This grant application for Personal Safety Rope Systems (PSS), also known as personal escape devices, represents a first-time submission to this funding opportunity. The Amesbury Fire Department (AFD) has not previously applied for or received funding specifically for this equipment acquisition. Our department's recent capital planning prioritized other essential upgrades, such as the 2023 E-One Typhoon HR 100 ladder truck, leaving firefighter personal escape capabilities as an unmet need. This proposal aligns with our ongoing commitment to safety enhancements while leveraging our existing infrastructure, including gear pockets designed for PSS integration.

History of the Amesbury Fire Department

The Amesbury Fire Department traces its roots to 1668, when the town—then part of Salisbury—was settled along the Merrimack River in what is now the northeast corner of Massachusetts. As one of the earliest fire services in Essex County, the AFD evolved from volunteer bucket brigades responding to wooden structures vulnerable to rapid fires, as evidenced by major blazes in the late 1800s that destroyed key landmarks like the Amesbury High School. Incorporated as a distinct city in 1996, Amesbury's fire service was formalized under Article 5 of the Town Charter, expanding to include professional firefighting, emergency medical services (EMS), and rescue operations.

Benefits of Personal Escape Devices to the Amesbury Community

Personal escape devices will directly safeguard our 40 uniformed firefighters, enabling rapid self-evacuation from upper floors or rooftops during structure fires—a critical need in Amesbury's mix of historic wood-frame homes, multi-story mills, and commercial buildings. This investment aligns with national standards from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 1983), fostering a safer operational environment.

List of Amesbury Fire Department's Apparatus, Vehicles, and Specialized Equipment

The AFD maintains a robust fleet to support fire suppression, EMS, rescue, and mutual aid operations. Below is a comprehensive inventory based on our current roster:

Apparatus Type	Designation	Year/Make/Model	Key Specifications
Pumper Engine	Engine 1	2015 KME Severe Service	1500 GPM pump, 750-gallon tank, 30-gallon foam
Pumper Engine	Engine 2	2009 Spartan Metro Star / Rosenbauer	1500 GPM pump, 750-gallon tank, 20-gallon foam (ex-demo, acquired 2011)

Apparatus Type	Designation	Year/Make/Model	Key Specifications
Aerial Ladder	Ladder 4	2023 E-One Typhoon HR 100	1500 GPM pump, 470-gallon tank, 30-gallon foam, 100' rear-mount aerial
Forestry Unit	Forestry 2	2010 Ford F-450 4x4 / 2019 New England Truck Design	125 GPM pump, 250-gallon tank (ex-ambulance chassis)
Utility	Squad 1	2013 Ford F-350 4x4 / Warner	Walk-around utility body for tools, hazmat, and extrication equipment
Ambulance	Ambulance 1	2014 Chevrolet Express 4500	Advanced Life Support (ALS) with external defibrillators
Ambulance	Additional Units (2)	Various (e.g., 2010s Chevy/GMC)	Basic and ALS configurations for EMS transport
Command/Support	Command Vehicles	Various (e.g., Ford Expeditions)	Incident management, communications, and support
Marine	Marine 1		Side console, 4 stroke outboard, underwater sonar

Mission Statement: The Amesbury Fire Department's mission is to protect the community in the utmost professional manner through integrated fire protection, EMS, rescue services, and public education, in collaboration with city departments and Essex County public safety partners. We prioritize life safety, property preservation, and prevention via administration, fire suppression, EMS, tech rescue response, hazardous materials response, code enforcement, training, and public safety education.

Key Achievements:

- Responded to over 5,000 incidents annually with zero firefighter line-of-duty deaths in the past decade, attributed to rigorous training and equipment upgrades.
- Acquired the 2023 E-One ladder truck, enhancing high-reach capabilities and reducing response times by 15% in multi-story incidents.
- Implemented the SAFE Education program, reaching 1,500+ schoolchildren yearly with fire prevention simulations using a smoke trailer, contributing to a 20% drop in residential fire alarms since 2015.

- Provided mutual aid to 50+ regional incidents in 2024, including flood rescues along the Merrimack, earning commendations from the Massachusetts Fire Chiefs' Association.

These milestones underscore our proactive approach to safety and community resilience.

Size and Structure of the Amesbury Fire Department and Staff Engaged in This Proposal

The AFD is a full-career department with 43 total personnel: 1 Fire Chief, 1 Deputy Chief, 1 community safety resource officer, 8 Fire Lieutenants, and 32 Firefighters (organized into four 24-hour platoons, represented by IAFF Local 1783). We operate from one station covering 14 square miles, with no volunteers or per-call staff. For this proposal, all 40 uniformed members (Chief through Firefighters) will be engaged: Chief for procurement oversight, Lieutenants for integration planning, and Firefighters for training implementation. This full-department involvement ensures seamless adoption and proficiency.

Description of Proposed Work

The proposed work focuses on acquiring 40 Personal Safety Rope Systems (PSS) to equip every uniformed firefighter with NFPA-compliant escape tools for rapid self-rescue from elevated hazards. Our turnout gear already includes integrated pockets for PSS deployment, but we lack the devices themselves. We will procure high-quality, lightweight 50-foot escape ropes with anchors and carabiners, compatible with our fire gear escape harnesses. This acquisition will integrate without requiring fleet modifications, directly addressing vulnerabilities in mayday scenarios common to our aging building stock.

Project Goals and Objectives, with Milestones and Projections

Goals: Equip all firefighters with PSS to enhance personal safety, reduce evacuation risks, and align with NFPA 1500 standards.

Objectives and Milestones:

1. **Procurement (Month 1):** Select and order 40 PSS units; projected cost efficiency through bulk vendor negotiation (Milestone: Contract signed by October 31, 2025).
2. **Distribution and Initial Fitting (Month 2):** Assign devices to gear and conduct fit-testing; 100% distribution by November 30, 2025.
3. **Training Rollout (Months 2-3):** Deliver department-wide certification; full proficiency by December 31, 2025.

- 4. Integration and Drills (Months 4-6):** Incorporate into quarterly evolutions; 90% scenario success rate projected by March 31, 2026.

Expected Deliverables and Dates

- **PSS Inventory Report:** Detailed acquisition log (October 15, 2025).
- **Training Certification Records:** For all 40 members (December 15, 2025).
- **Integration Protocol Manual:** Updated SOPs for PSS use (January 15, 2026).

Budget Allocation

Total requested: \$24,660. Funds will be used exclusively for PSS acquisition and rollout, with no overhead.

Line-Item Expense	Description	Amount	Justification
PSS Units (40)	50-ft escape ropes, anchors, carabiners (e.g., Petzl or CMC brand)	\$21,160	\$529/unit based on vendor quotes; NFPA-certified
Shipping & Handling	Delivery to Station 1	\$1,000	Bulk freight from certified supplier
Training Materials	Manuals, deployment aids, certification fees	\$2,500	In-house with instructor (4 sessions)
Administrative	Documentation and tracking software	\$0	Compliance reporting tools
Total		\$24,660	

No matching funds required; department covers maintenance ongoing.

Evaluation: How Success Will Be Measured

Success will be quantified via: 100% PSS proficiency certification rate; pre/post-drill escape times (target: <30 seconds); incident reports tracking PSS deployments (goal: 0 failures in Year 1). To maintain proficiency, we will integrate PSS into our existing training regimen: mandatory annual recertification per NFPA 1983 (8 hours/platoon), ultimately safeguarding our team and the 17,000+ residents we serve.

The City of Amesbury does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, national origin or political affiliation.

CUSTOMER: Amesbury Fire Department TEMPLATE: Custom Estimate

Quote

DATE: 09/25/2025 QUOTE FOR: Amesbury Fire Dept
 QUOTE #: Q-20251932 Accounts Payable
 17 School Street
 Amesbury MA 01913
 QUOTE: Amesbury Fire Dept
 LT David Carpenter
 17 School Street
 Amesbury MA 01913

CUST PO # TERM: Net 30 REP: JB0 FLG: manufacturer SUB-UN #

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QTY	PRICE EACH	TOTAL	TAX
Rope KTSTEALTHRAGLAN. 25.5	Sleath Kit (50') w/ Bag and Lanyard * Sleath Escape Hook with pull tab * Sleath Descend device * 50' 0mm SleathTech Escape Rope * Autolock carabiner * Tech extension lanyard * Sleath Pocket Bag	40	529.00	21,160.00	Non
			SUBTOTAL	21,160.00	
			TAX (0.0%)	0.00	
			TOTAL	21,160.00	

TAX: Exempt TAX: 0.0%

DEBIT/CREDIT BALANCE: Quote valid for 30 days

(220) Fire					FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026 Mayor's Recommended Budget	Mayor's Budget \$ Change vs. FY 25 Budget	Mayor's Budget % Change vs. FY 25 Budget
					ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	REVISED BUDGET			
				(220) FIRE							
100	0220	5110	00	REGULAR SALARIES & WAGES	2,859,967	3,017,277	3,014,197	3,386,257	3,770,845	384,588	11.36%
100	0220	5130	00	OVERTIME	241,144	237,708	214,904	227,070	227,070		
100	0220	5134	00	AMBULANCE OT	58,808	84,948	120,812	110,000	80,000	(30,000)	-27.27%
100	0220	5125	00	AMBULANCE TRAINING OT	50,511	89,566	76,414	80,000	86,500	6,500	8.13%
100	0220	5142	00	SHIFT COVERAGE SICK	103,427	74,602	74,773	85,807	85,807		
100	0220	5143	00	SHIFT COVERAGE INJURY	38,810	911	3,149	20,036	25,000	4,964	24.78%
100	0220	5144	00	HOLIDAY PAY	182,701	188,416	178,724	207,798	207,798		
100	0220	5145	00	TRAINING OT	22,614	46,148	60,289	80,000	86,500	6,500	8.13%
100	0220	5152	00	SICK LEAVE BUYBACK	49,345	-	-	32,878	-	(32,878)	-100.00%
100	0220	5179	00	MEDICAL CLAIMS (111F)	85,992	39,234	-	-	-		
100	0220	5192	00	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	51,200	52,200	48,725	64,200	63,725	(475)	-0.74%
100	0220	5198	00	PHYSICAL FITNESS INCENTIVE	-	-	-	12,000	12,000		
100	0220	5211	00	ELECTRICITY	21,301	32,432	43,218	41,000	43,050	2,050	5.00%
100	0220	5212	00	HEAT	9,661	9,241	9,993	11,500	12,500	1,000	8.70%
100	0220	5241	00	REPAIRS & MAINT BUILDINGS	26,362	30,900	31,886	27,920	30,530	2,610	9.35%
100	0220	5248	00	REPAIRS & MAINT AMBULANCE	11,787	8,694	-	-	11,000	11,000	
100	0220	5249	00	REPAIRS & MAINT FIRE ALARM	1,804	552	992	500	1,000	500	100.00%
100	0220	5251	00	REPAIRS & MAINT FIRE APPARATUS	821	51,020	52,902	51,341	74,825	23,484	45.74%
100	0220	5253	00	REPAIRS & MAINT OTHER EQUIP	13,975	13,071	13,111	28,544	32,200	3,656	12.81%
100	0220	5307	00	AMBULANCE BILLING SERVICE	29,065	41,484	49,603	30,000	61,000	31,000	103.33%
100	0220	5316	00	CONSULTING	-	-	5,250	-	-		
100	0220	5320	00	TRAINING	-	255	-	1,500	56,600	55,100	3673.33%
100	0220	5340	00	COMMUNICATIONS	23,564	11,434	14,094	36,500	46,500	10,000	27.40%
100	0220	5420	00	OFFICE SUPPLIES	8,350	7,259	9,157	8,000	7,000	(1,000)	-12.50%
100	0220	5423	00	EMT & NEMT RECERTS	13,295	5,937	7,292	50,000	11,700	(38,300)	-76.60%
100	0220	5427	00	SUPPLIES	1,105	5,524	30,686	24,000	27,900	3,900	16.25%
100	0220	5450	00	CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	4,724	5,853	6,182	8,000	8,000		
100	0220	5480	00	VEHICLE SUPPLIES	37,431	2,722	310	875	-	(875)	-100.00%
100	0220	5480	01	VEHICLE FUEL	35,245	41,957	40,766	44,923	44,922	(1)	
100	0220	5501	00	AMBULANCE EQUIP. SUPPLIES	55,899	57,026	-	-	49,950	(6,950)	
100	0220	5510	00	FIRE PREVENTION	509	433	1,258	1,470	3,870	2,400	163.27%

(220) Fire					FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026 Mayor's Recommended Budget	Mayor's Budget \$ Change vs. FY 25 Budget	Mayor's Budget % Change vs. FY 25 Budget
100	0220	5584	00	PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT	23,848	15,719	30,332	37,200	63,460	26,260	70.59%
100	0220	5710	00	TRAVEL	-	971	-	-	1,000	1,000	
100	0220	5730	00	DUES & MEMBERSHIPS	3,730	6,696	7,719	7,980	8,456	476	5.96%
100	0220	5780	00	EMPG GRANT	-	-	-	-	4,600	4,600	
100	0220	5870	00	EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT	7,044	3,815	189,565	113,521	-	(113,521)	-100.00%
100	0220	6300	00	CONTRACTED SERVICES	200	700	850	700	700		
100	0220	6300	01	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS	179	-	-	-	-		
100	0220	6300	02	ANNUAL TESTING & CERTIFICATION	-	23,064	1,225	2,000	3,000	1,000	50.00%
				(220) TOTAL FIRE	4,094,341	4,387,761	4,338,380	4,833,320	5,346,028	416,488	8.60%
				% Increase (Decrease) over prior Fiscal Year	11.37%	2.36%	3.60%		8.60%		



Quote

617-325-3993 Fax # 617-325-0238

Date	Quote #
9/25/2025	Q-20251932

Quote For
Amesbury Fire Dept LT David Carpentier 17 School Street Amesbury, MA 01913

City of Boston's SLBE/MWBE
MA State Contract PSE01 VC6000185170

FOB	Terms
manufacturer	Net 30

Item	Description	Qty	Price E...	Total
KTSTEALTHBA...	Stealth Kit (50') w/ Bag and Lanyard * Stealth Escape Hook with pull tab * Stealth Descent device * 50' 6mm StealthTech Escape Rope * Autolock carabiner * Tech extension lanyard * Stealth Pocket Bag	40	529.00	21,160.00

Quote valid for 30 days	Subtotal	\$21,160.00
Prices subject to change due to manufacturer's price increase and/or fees from tariffs, surcharges, etc.	Sales Tax (0.0%)	\$0.00
	Total	\$21,160.00

northeastrescue.com

3.5% service fee added for credit card purchases;

info@northeastrescue.com





LAST CALL FOUNDATION

In Memory of Fallen Firefighter
Michael Kennedy

December 16, 2025

Lieutenant David Carpentier
Amesbury Fire Department
17 School St
Amesbury, MA 01913

RE: Approved Last Call Foundation Grant Contract Terms and Conditions

Dear Lieutenant David,

The Last Call Foundation, a 501(c)(3) dedicated to the fire service, has approved and agreed to fund the grant proposal from the Amesbury Fire Department submitted September 27, 2025, as follows:

The LCF grant in the amount of \$24,060.00 is to be used exclusively for the purchase of personal escape systems for the entire department.

The proposed grant application is attached hereto and incorporated herein to become part of this contract which spells out the use of the LCF grant by the Amesbury Fire Department.

The Last Call Foundation grant is subject to your agreement to:

1. Use the grant funds only as specified in the approved grant proposal, as submitted to LCF.
2. Maintain your records to show and account for the uses of grant funds.
3. Provide detailed invoicing and access to records to verify grant expenditures and activities, directed to: billpay@lastcallfoundation.org.
4. Provide written acknowledgment of receipt of payments of grant funds.
5. Repay any portion of the funds not used for the specified purposes in the grant proposal within 90 days of the date of this grant award approval letter, unless Last Call Foundation extends the time limit in writing.
6. Refrain from use of the funds for any other purpose, or any purpose prohibited by law.
7. Cooperate with any and all Last Call Foundation efforts to publicize the grant award.
8. Provide written response to reasonable written requests within 10 business days regarding information pertaining to the funded grant.
9. Wherever feasible, note the grant award from Last Call Foundation and having received LCF approval, use the LCF logo as lead sponsor.

The signing of this letter creates a contract and confirms agreement that violation of any of the above terms or conditions will result in the recall and immediate repayment, upon demand by Last Call Foundation, of all Last Call Foundation grant funds, with no recourse at law or in equity.

Last Call Foundation does not under any circumstances provide funding to any institution to be used for administrative expenses. Last Call Foundation funds must be used only for expenses in the approved grant proposal as presented.

If your organization agrees to and accepts all conditions and terms as stated herein, please have an authorized representative sign and return one copy of this contract.

We appreciate being able to assist you with your efforts to support the safety, health and wellness of our fire service.

All communications regarding this grant should be sent by email to billpay@lastcallfoundation.org and copied to kathycrosby@comcast.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Burns". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "B".

Jason Burns
Executive Director

I certify that the organization named above accepts the terms outlined in this letter. I further certify that the person entering into this contract is authorized to do so by the Amesbury Fire Department.

By _____

Title _____

Date _____

Upon receipt of this executed agreement, a representative of Last Call Foundation will contact you to refine and outline all details and receive directions regarding methods of payments. Please provide the name and contact information of the person(s) in your organization responsible for this overview of grant funding, spending validations and correspondence with Last Call Foundation.

Name _____

Title _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Mailing Address

To the extent allowed by law, Grantee hereby indemnifies and holds Grantor, its employees and agents harmless from any and all liability of every nature and description arising out of this Grant including, but not limited to, all third-party claims, liabilities, judgments, costs, damages, damage to property or personal injuries including death, and expenses, (collectively referred to as the "Losses"). Grantee will be financially and legally responsible for all such Losses except to the extent where the Losses are the direct result of Grantor, its employees' or agents' negligent acts.

Amesbury Fire Department grant request and proposal incorporated herein and made part of this contractual agreement as presented and approved.

Date _____

Initial here _____

The Mission of the Last Call Foundation is to provide funding, education and research to advance the safety needs of the firefighting community.

