ESSEX FIRE ENGINE CO. # 1
P.O. BOX 786 | ESSEX, CT 06426

Dear Friend,

October 2020

Every 40 seconds someone in the United States has a heart attack. Four out of 5 of those occur at home. You, someone you know, or someone you love, may have experienced a cardiac event and had to call 911 for assistance. When you call 911 in our community, not only does an ambulance respond, but also the Essex Fire Department (EFD). As one of the town's first responders, sometimes the fire department arrives on scene before the ambulance and takes the lead on patient care.

In most parts of the country, fire departments respond to more medical calls than all other calls combined. In 2019, EFD responded to 522 calls of which 351 were medical related with several being cardiac events.

You may not be aware that many first responder's vehicles are equipped with an operational automated external defibrillator or **AED**. An **AED** is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest by analyzing the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, delivering an electrical shock or defibrillation to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm. Many vehicles also carry a **Lucas** Chest Compression System which performs 102 compressions per minute with minimal interruption to the patient.

Just this year, EFD responded to calls from healthy, compromised, young and older individuals experiencing cardiac events. We were able to respond quickly and provide aid immediately. This may not have been possible without an AED on the vehicles.

This year, EFD needs to replace the 12 AED units at a cost of $2,524 each and 2 Lucas Chest Compression Systems at a cost of $18,913 each. The total cost of the units, consumables, and service plans, is $68,111. Unfortunately, this extraordinary expenditure falls outside of our annual operating budget which is supported by the town, and ultimately by you.

I am writing to ask if you would please consider making a donation to the Essex Fire Department so that we can defray the cost of replacing the AED's and Lucas units which will allow us to treat sudden cardiac arrests on scene and save more lives.

For your convenience, a remittance envelope is enclosed. You can send a check payable to Essex Fire Engine Company No.1, pay by credit card or securely donate online at www.essexctfire.org/donate. Thank you in advance for any support you can provide.

Regards,

Aron Schumacher, Chief | Andy Kressley, Deputy Chief | Ethan Goller, Asst. Chief | Doug Harreys, Asst. Chief

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