New airpacks to aid FM firefighters

Grant process saves city about $26K

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Sometimes the best way to protect the people of your community, is to make sure you’re safe first.

The Fort Madison Fire Department can now take another step in protecting firefighters inside burning and smoke-filled buildings with new airpacks purchased with Federal Emergency Management Agency grant money.

Fire Chief Joey Herren said the new packs will go onto the trucks on Friday. He said the department has been training on the new airpacks for about 3 weeks in addition to being able to use a model to compare to the former Scotts air packs the city has been using.

“Our airpacks are supposed to be changed out every 15 years, especially on the rest of the packs. Those carbon fiber bottles they only have a life span of 15 years,” Herren said.

“We were in a dilemma on the budget crunch that was going to cost me to replace all the bottles at about just under $900 apiece. I had 32 bottles so that was going to be in the $32,000 range just to replace bottles and wel still have (National Fire Protection Association) standard 2001 air packs because we’ve updated those three or four times. So we applied for the FEMA Firefighters grant program and they awarded it to us this year.”

Herren said he knew the tanks were coming to the end of their life cycle and started working on the grants three years ago.

“I’ve applied for it three times. I did it in 2013, 2014 and 2015. We were turned down the first two years and we went ahead and wrote it again through the grant company and they gave us the grant on the 3rd year,” he said.

Herren said the biggest change was going from Scotts, the previous airpack manufacturer, which everyone wore for the past 20 years and what Herren wore as a volunteer, and now they’re changing companies.

“So we’ve taken about 3 weeks of training. They have some more sensors and alarms on them. With the old standard we were alarmed at 25% air to get out of the building and now the alarm goes off at 33%. But these MSA’s do have a pass device, if you’re not moving...even if you’re just standing there and not moving it alarms pretty loud to let them know where you are.

Herren said the department has a 2 in 2 out rule so firefighters always go into a structure with a partner.

See TANKS, page 2

LCHD may set bond vote in May

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
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At Tuesday’s Lee County Board of Supervisors, board members heard discussion on putting a referendum on the ballot for a new health department building.

Board member Matt Plugh said the health building committee would like a commitment from the board on the property. “Actually, we have an opportunity for two pieces of land, but if we go right here by the sheriff’s office, we would be saving taxpayers roughly $55,000. So we’re looking at bringing the bond back”

See VOTE, page 2

County board setting plans for building renovations

Courthouses, North Lee County building now on maintenance plan

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
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At Tuesday’s Lee County Board of Supervisors’ meeting, supervisors heard from Ed Soenke of Design Partners and John Hanson of Midwest Construction Consultants of Houghton, on how to best go about rehabbing the north and south Lee County courthouses and North Lee County Building.

The south courthouse building has some issues in the bellower and other locations throughout the building, but the supervisors asked Hanson to come up with a complete estimate on the work for all three of the locations so the board could have the numbers going into budgeting sessions which start in about three weeks.

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See BOARD, page 2

New gear

Above, at top, Fort Madison Firefighter Chad Hannum dons one of the department’s new MSA G1 self-contained breathing apparatus. The new airpacks were purchased with about $100K in Federal Emergency Management Agency grant money and a 5% match from the city.

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Above, at top, Fort Madison Firefighter Chad Hannum dons one of the department’s new MSA G1 self-contained breathing apparatus. The new airpacks were purchased with about $100K in Federal Emergency Management Agency grant money and a 5% match from the city.
 никогда не работал за свой счет. Я делал это ради общей цели.

Со временем я стал более осторожным и старался убедиться, что у меня есть надежное финансирование. Но в конечном итоге, я всегда старался следовать своей мечте, даже если это означало, что мне нужно брать на себя больше ответственности.

В конце концов, моя работа была не только о том, чтобы выполнить задачу, но и о том, чтобы создать что-то значимое и вечное. Я надеюсь, что эта работа оставит свой след в истории и будет вдохновлять других наставников в будущем.

Благодарю всех, кто помогал мне в этом пути, и желаю вам успехов в ваших собственных делах.
County Task force nabs

Law enforcement also gets Keokuk man after short foot chase

PEN CITY STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Fort Madison, Iowa woman on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

Lisanne Marie Morton, 27, of 1804 Avenue D, Fort Madison, Iowa was arrested on Tuesday after a traffic stop on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Morton is charged with Possession With Intent To Deliver Methamphetamine In Excess Of Five Grams and Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Morton faces up to 39 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility.

The arrest of Morton stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that she was involved in the use and distribution of illegal narcotics in the Lee County area. A search warrant was served in connection with this investigation and items that support the charges were discovered. The Lee County Attorney’s Office and the Fort Madison Police Department assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

KEOKUK ARREST

The Task Force also reported the arrest of a Keokuk man on felony and misdemeanor drug charges in an unrelated investigation. Preston Kash Ingram, 28, of Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on Friday at Victory Park in Keokuk on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Ingram is charged with Possession of Cocaine Within 1000 Feet Of A Public Park Second Or Subsequent Offense, a class C felony; with enhancements, and Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Ingram faces up to 45 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility.

The arrest of Ingram stems from the Keokuk Police Department arresting Ingram on an outstanding felony warrant after a short foot pursuit. During the arrest of Ingram, items that support the charges were discovered. The Lee County Attorney’s Office and the Keokuk Police Department assisted the Task Force in this investigation.

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The defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy.

Pen City Current
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