

## LARSON ANNOUNCES \$155,480 FEDERAL HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FOR BLOOMFIELD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 19, 2005

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BLOOMFIELD- The Blue Hills Volunteer Fire Department in Bloomfield has been awarded \$155,480 from the Department of Homeland Security through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The department will use the funds to upgrade and purchase breathing apparatus and communications equipment.

The department's goal has been purchase and upgrade this critical equipment both to protect their firefighters and meet national firefighter safety standards," said Larson. "This funding will give the department the opportunity to meet that goal so they can best serve the community and minimize the danger to their volunteers. Firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical personnel represent the front lines in the effort to keep our communities and our families safe and we must do everything we can to make sure they have the resources they need."

This round of the 2004 Assistance to Firefighter grants awarded more than \$13.3 million to fire departments around the nation, including Bloomfield. The grant program helps local fire departments fund firefighter health and safety programs, enhance emergency medical services programs, conduct fire education and prevention programs and fund the purchase of equipment.

In April 2004 Larson wrote to the Department of Homeland Security to urge that today's funding be awarded to Bloomfield's Blue Hills Fire Department.

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