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Illinois American Water Distributes Grant for Tactical Command Board to Lemont Fire Protection District (Photo Included)

Woodridge, IL. (December 8, 2015) – The Lemont Fire Protection District will be purchasing new batteries for their portable radios as well as a tactical command board for their Battalion Chiefs to use when they arrive on the scene of an emergency thanks to a grant from Illinois American Water (IAW).

The IAW 2015 Firefighter Grant Program provides financial assistance to fire and emergency organizations serving communities in its service areas. This year, approximately \$49,600 will be awarded to 62 fire departments.

According to Bruce Hauk, president of Illinois American Water, the Firefighter Grant Program has been successful in providing assistance to community fire protection efforts. He said, "Since creation, the program has resulted in providing over 280 grants totaling over \$294,000 to fire departments across Illinois. We are grateful that we can play a role in supporting the firefighter community as a whole in this great state."

Grants of up to \$800 are awarded to cover the costs associated with the following:

- Personal protective gear
- Communications equipment
- Firefighting tools
- Water handling equipment
- Training and related activities/materials used to support community fire protection
- Reimbursement for specific fire training classes, including training manuals and workbooks

"Thank you for the opportunity to express our gratitude for the Illinois American Water grant," stated Fire Chief George Rimbo. "The District is extremely grateful for the grant allowing the department to purchase new batteries for our portable radios as well as a tactical command board for our Battalion Chiefs."

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Caption for the Photo: (Left to Right)

Mike Kingman, Lemont Fire Dept.; Tom Hopkins, Lemont Fire Dept.; Dave Spivak, Lemont Fire Lieutenant; George Rimbo, Lemont Fire Chief; Tom Harrell, Illinois American Water; Jay Nickleski, Lemont Fire Deputy Chief; Mike Brown, Lemont Fire Dept.; and Dave Bettenhausen, Lemont Fire Battalion Chief.

About Illinois American Water – Illinois American Water, a wholly owned subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and/or wastewater services to approximately 1.2 million people. American Water also operates a customer service center in Alton and a quality control and research laboratory in Belleville.

Founded in 1886, American Water is the largest and most geographically diverse publicly traded U.S. water and wastewater utility company. With headquarters in Voorhees, N.J., the company employs 6,800 dedicated professionals who provide regulated and market-based drinking water, wastewater and other related services to an estimated 15 million people in 47 states and Ontario, Canada. More information can be found at www.amwater.com.