



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
FIRE
DEPARTMENT

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HFD Purchases Ballistic Protection Equipment to Support Lifesaving Medical Response

HARRISONBURG, Va. – The Harrisonburg Fire Department (HFD) recently purchased 29 sets of ballistic protection equipment designed to provide firefighters, who are also trained as EMTs and paramedics, with needed protection during response to hostile incidents.

The ensemble consists of a plate carrier (vest), ballistic plates designed to stop rifle rounds and a ballistic helmet. The vests will be equipped with critical life-saving equipment to stop uncontrolled bleeding and each vest and helmet are fully adjustable to accommodate the wearer.

This new ballistic protection will be carried on the department’s fire engines, ladder truck, and fire marshal and command vehicles. It will allow HFD personnel the ability to enter a hostile scene faster, decreasing the time it would normally take for victims to receive lifesaving medical care and rescue from the threatening environment.

“This type of personal protective equipment wasn’t even a thought when I started my career 27 years ago,” HFD Deputy Chief Stephen Morris said. “Today, ballistic protection is necessary for all first responders, allowing us to provide the necessary and timely care to victims of violence in coordination with law enforcement.”

The HFD and local law enforcement, including Harrisonburg and James Madison University Police Departments, work closely and have trained together annually for the last 10 years in preparedness to respond to active incidents. The addition of the ballistic protection for HFD enhances the department’s long working relationship with local law enforcement to jointly provide a critical service to the community. This unified approach has been identified as an essential component in saving lives. The equipment also reflects HFD’s ongoing commitment to the safety, health and wellness of its personnel.

The Harrisonburg Fire Department is an ISO-Class II All-Hazards agency providing essential emergency and non-emergency life safety services to the public who live, work and travel in Harrisonburg. More information about the Fire Department is available on-line at www.harrisonburgva.gov/fire or on Facebook®, Twitter® and Instagram®.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 55,700 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.



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