



## **LOCAL 2260 UPDATE**

By Bryan Jeffries, President

Brothers and Sisters,

This week has been a tremendous one for our Local. If you have not yet heard, Mesa and Gilbert Fire have been notified by the United States Department of Homeland Security that the Mesa Fire Department is set to receive 4 million dollars, and Gilbert is to receive 2.9 million dollars in Fire Station Construction Grants awarded by the Federal Emergency Management

Agency and authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. There were only 100 of these grants provided throughout the U.S. In Arizona, only three Fire Departments received grants, and our Local contains two of the three. This is exceptional news for us, especially in Mesa where our ability to match public safety service infrastructure with community growth has been tremendously hampered in recent years.

I would like to personally thank all involved who helped bring this grant opportunity to fruition. First, we must thank our great International Association for working so hard with our friends in the White House and especially Vice President Joe Biden on making this 210 million dollar Fire Station construction grant program possible.

Next, we need to thank Chief Beck and Chief Dewitt and their staffs, who we approached in June and asked to pursue this tremendous opportunity. They both jumped at the chance and have worked closely with our union to make this possible. In Mesa, staying true to the collaborative working relationship between our Union and Fire Management, we partnered PFFA Legislative Assistant and Mesa Firefighter, Tony Lo Giudice with Management representatives Jim Bloomer and Radona Orlando to work on the grant application. Tony and Radona and Jim really performed exceptional work on this process and truly deserve all of our thanks for their commitment to making this happen.

In Gilbert, Assistant Fire Chief Jim Jobusch provided tremendous work on the grant application, while working closely with the resource labor/management team on the station design and location issues.

We also must thank Mesa Mayor Smith and the Mesa City Council as well as Gilbert Mayor Lewis and the Gilbert Town Council for their support of our efforts. Thank you as well to both the City of Mesa and the Town of Gilbert's Managers, Chris Brady and George Petit along with their staffs for supporting this endeavor. Further appreciation goes to intergovernmental staff from Mesa and Gilbert who assisted with lobbying for our needs.

Congressman Harry Mitchell and his staff, as always have been so very responsive, and ever so helpful with this and every issue where we have needed information and assistance.

This grant money will go a long way to protect the public safety of our citizens in the east valley and it will also go a long way by providing construction jobs and income as a piece of assistance to our ailing economy.

Details on the exact projects and portions of projects where the monies will be applied to will be forthcoming.

Best regards to everyone

Bryan Jeffries

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