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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Covert Township Fire Department Awarded Three EMS Workforce Scholarship Awards from Michigan Center for Rural Health

COVERT TOWNSHIP, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN – On Thursday, March 16, 2023, Covert Township Fire Department was notified as being the recipient of three EMS Workforce scholarship awards. Grant applications were due March 1, 2023 to the Michigan Center for Rural Health. Three student recipients from Covert Fire Department have been selected to receive \$24,655 each in scholarship funds to attend a paramedic education program and obtain certification and licensure. Miguel Llerena, Jazmin Cortez and Jacquelin Zurwalski are expected to begin classes September of this year.

The grant program from Michigan Center for Rural Health is designed to establish, implement, and operate a workforce development program to be used for training people in emergency medical services to address the critical shortage of paramedics statewide and to increase accessibility to EMS education programming, specifically paramedic programs, in Michigan. Preference was made for EMS professionals serving rural Michigan census track communities, single parents, women, racial and ethnic minorities, and veterans with a desire to serve as a paramedic.

The Covert Township Fire Department is a combination fire department that provides high quality fire, rescue and EMS services. The department responds to approximately 700 calls per year in Covert and neighboring communities per mutual aid agreements. The station is staffed 24/7/365 by career firefighter/paramedics who are supplemented by part-time and paid-on-call firefighters. Covert Township also has several police officers cross-trained as firefighters who respond to fire and EMS calls while on patrol.

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