

GRAND LODGE ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

M:W: Aaron Zahn
GRAND MASTER

R:W: Dane Bloch
DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

R:W: Bryant Stokes
SENIOR GRAND WARDEN

R:W: Brian Pulling
JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

M:W: Jeff VanCuren
GRAND SECRETARY



R:W: Reid Jensen
GRAND TREASURER

2023-2024

November 24, 2023

Dear Brother,

The Grand Lodge of South Dakota is excited to announce that with the generous support of the South Dakota Masonic Charities, we are introducing a new program within the Matching Grant Program of the South Dakota Masonic Charities (SDMC). The Fire Suppression Tool (FST) is a state-of-the-art device that is easy to use and extremely effective: you simply “pull the pins and throw it in” to a structure fire, and within 30 seconds it will extinguish the flames and drop the temperature by 1,000 degrees. They are especially helpful in basement and house fires, as they remove the great danger posed to firefighters sent into a blaze without releasing harmful chemicals.

The FST is a device designed to be used by law enforcement and first responders as they are often the first to respond to fires, but it may be used and carried by anyone to protect lives and property. The FST Program will allow Lodges to acquire a unit(s) and donate to their local law enforcement, first responders, and/or fire department. There is no question that these devices make our communities safer, and they will make Masons more visible throughout our state.

The FST Program has had tremendous success for the Grand Lodges of Wisconsin and Minnesota. We appreciate their efforts in establishing this program and sharing their success. The Grand Lodge of South Dakota is offering the FST as one of the several ways we can make an impact in our communities. We have been offered a discounted rate for each of these units for only \$899. This includes a carry case for the unit along with a South Dakota specific decal to be placed on the outside of the case. Freight and shipping will be determined on each unit as the most economical method will be utilized.

To participate in the program, a Lodge will need to:

- ✓ Identify law enforcement/first responder to receive a recipient.
- ✓ Establish a date/time to donate. This could be at a community event or directly in at the first responder office.
- ✓ Notify all appropriate media outlets. Please use the press releases available after the Matching Grant Application submittal.

Lodges will need to submit a Matching Grant Application form to the Grand Lodge Office, with attention South Dakota Masonic Charities. The Matching Grant Application is available under the Secretaries User Resources on Grand View. All applications will be reviewed. Lodges are asked to contribute as much as they are able to each unit in an effort to maximize the units the SDMC is able to distribute.

Worshipful Masters, I respectfully request that you read and discuss this letter and the corresponding flyer at your next Lodge meeting and strongly encourage the Brethren to consider and support this opportunity. Should you have any questions please contact your District Master.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Aaron Zahn
Grand Master
Masons in South Dakota

