

Town of Winchester – City of Winsted

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Office of the Town Manager

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town of Winchester Awarded \$17,450 Building Healthier Communities Grant to Strengthen Fire Department Preparedness

June 17, 2026, WINCHESTER, CT – The Town of Winchester is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$17,450 Building Healthier Communities Grant from the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation. The funding will support the acquisition and implementation of a professionally developed Guidebook system for the Winsted Fire Department.

The Guidebook system will provide firefighters with field-ready reference materials containing critical operational information that can be accessed quickly during emergency incidents. These resources serve as an important complement to digital systems, ensuring personnel have access to essential information even when internet connectivity, cellular service, or technology is unavailable. In emergency situations, first responders cannot afford interruptions in access to critical information, and this project will strengthen both operational readiness and public safety.

The project also represents an important opportunity to advance a public safety priority without placing additional demands on local taxpayers. As municipalities continue to face financial pressures, grant funding such as this enables Winchester to make meaningful investments in preparedness and resilience while remaining fiscally responsible.

The Town is especially excited to partner with Aniline Emergency Response Resources on this initiative. Winchester will serve as the first deployment of Aniline's Guidebook system in Connecticut, placing our community at the forefront of an innovative approach to emergency preparedness. As the inaugural Connecticut implementation, the project has the potential to demonstrate the value of this model for fire departments across the state.

“The Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation has been a valued partner in helping Winchester build a stronger community,” said Town Manager Paul Harrington. “This grant will enhance our Fire Department's readiness and ensure firefighters have access to critical information when seconds count. We are proud to be the first community in Connecticut to implement this innovative system and are grateful to NCCF for making this investment in public safety possible.”

For questions or requests for additional information, please contact the Office of the Town Manager at 860-738-6962.

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