

New Thermal Imaging Cameras Funded by Grant from Lyon County Riverboat Foundation

With a grant award of \$14,354 from Lyon County Riverboat Foundation, the Rock Rapids Fire Department purchased two new Thermal Imaging Cameras in 2021.

Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) is a special purpose camera that uses digital technology to identify relative temperatures of a scene and re-create real-time video imagery on the camera display. Because its input comes not from light, or apprehension of actual images, as in ordinary photography, but instead from heat, this camera is able to "see through" smoke, darkness, walls, floors, vehicles and other solid objects.

TIC is particularly useful for Search and Rescue operations. It can assist in locating a body lying the grass, weeds, field or snow or under debris. When surveying an auto interior, it can tell whether a seat has been occupied based on its temperature, and whether to continue to search for missing persons. When surveying a room or other spacial area, it can identify body shapes obscured by debris, walls or furniture.

Purchase of this equipment replaces the existing TIC that was purchased in 2013 with funding from Riverboat Foundation. The reason it needed to be replaced is that the battery charger no longer charged the batteries while placed inside the camera. Repair parts are not available since the equipment is obsolete. The only option for maintaining the existing level of service was to replace the old equipment with new.

In addition to providing fire protection to the City of Rock Rapids, the Volunteer Fire Department also serves certain rural areas in Allison, Cleveland, Liberal, Midland, Riverside and Rock Townships. On behalf of the Rock Rapids Fire Department and all who live or work in its service area, thank you to Lyon County Riverboat Foundation for making this project possible.