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May 22, 2018

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OAQDA Approves Clean Air Financing for Norwalk Auto Dealership
Firelands Chevrolet Buick to Install, Upgrade Paint Booth Equipment

COLUMBUS – Preserving air quality is the primary goal of a Huron County automobile dealership that received approval for up to \$200,000 in financing for new paint booth technology from the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) at its May meeting.

A new spray booth and upgrades to an existing paint booth will be installed at Firelands Chevrolet Buick, 300 Milan Ave., Norwalk.

Patrick O'Brien, president of the dealership, said the financing through the Clean Air Resource Center (CARC), a program of OAQDA, will make the automotive paint and body shop more energy efficient while controlling emissions.

"We are very excited about this new equipment because it will allow us not only to expand our service to customers while increasing our productivity in the body shop, but also will improve the quality of air in the shop for employees and customers alike," he said.

O'Brien added that the new and enhanced equipment will allow Firelands Chevrolet Buick to utilize environmentally-friendly water based paints in both of their paint booths.

"I am pleased to see Ohio businesses like Firelands Chevrolet Buick making clean air and energy efficiency a priority to sustain a healthy environment for employees and customers," said State Sen. Gayle Manning, (R-North Ridgeville).

"It is gratifying to see local Ohio businesses like Firelands Chevrolet Buick making significant commitments to air quality and energy efficiency," State Rep. Dick Stein, (R- Norwalk), said.

“We are pleased to provide financing through the Clean Air Resource Center for this paint booth purchase and upgrade at Firelands Chevrolet Buick. It is one more example of how OAQDA works with Ohio businesses, both large and small, to provide assistance for the purchase of pollution control or prevention equipment that helps preserve clean air in Ohio,” Chadwick Smith, OAQDA executive director, said.

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The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) is a non-regulatory government agency created to help Ohio businesses comply with clean air regulations. Since its creation in 1970, the Authority has provided technical and financial help to hundreds of large and small Ohio businesses, awarding more than \$8 billion to finance air quality projects. For more information about OAQDA and its services, please visit its web site at www.ohioairquality.org.