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OAQDA Approves \$360,000 To Support Lake County Small Business
Frank's Auto Body and Restoration to invest in environmentally conscious upgrades

COLUMBUS – During today's Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) board meeting, the Authority approved up to \$340,000 in bond financing to support Frank's Auto Body and Restoration in Lake County with its air quality improvement project. This company also will receive a grant totaling up to \$20,000. The bond financing and grant funds are provided through OAQDA's Clean Air Resource Center (CARC), which makes clean air compliance easily accessible and affordable for Ohio small businesses.

Frank's Auto Body and Restoration Inc., located in Madison, Ohio, is an auto body repair facility focusing on collision repair and restoration of antique and muscle cars as well as some commercial vehicles. The company is moving operations to 7277 North Ridge Road in Madison and, in the process, will replace old, inefficient equipment. The upgrades include the installation of two down draft spray booths as well as a paint mixing room.

"This is an exciting time for Frank's as they move to a new, larger location and implement environmental conscious improvements to protect the air as well as the well-being of employees," said Christina O'Keeffe, executive director of OAQDA. "We are pleased to be able to support this Ohio small business and help them achieve their goals."

Frank's has been in business since 1993 and currently employs 11 individuals. The project will utilize air quality control technology as part of the spray paint booths, reducing air emissions and improving employee health. The company also plans to add two more full-time positions.

"Frank's Auto Body and Restoration is appreciative to everyone at OAQDA for their assistance with our grant application for equipment upgrades," said Frank Latin, owner of Frank's Auto Body and Restoration. "The approval of this grant will help our facility meet environmental requirements and to be more competitive, in turn, creating more employment opportunities."

OAQDA is committed to serving the economic and environmental needs of Ohio businesses and communities as they strive to reduce air emissions and achieve greater sustainability goals that protects the air. CARC offers financing packages that are structured to suit the needs of individual projects, which are incentivized with tax benefits using conduit bonds and grants to help small businesses cover a portion of the principal amount.

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The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) is a non-regulatory government agency created to help Ohio businesses comply and go beyond clean air regulations. Since its creation in 1970, OAQDA has worked to prevent air pollution throughout the state of Ohio by providing businesses with the resources they need to reduce harmful air emissions and be more energy efficient while creating jobs and boosting local economies. To date, OAQDA has awarded more than \$8 billion to finance air quality projects. For more information about OAQDA and its services, please visit ohioairquality.org.