By Jan Rahn
Managing Editor

There should never again be any question about how much this community supports their local fire department. There has always been a sense of camaraderie between residents, the entities they support, and the local members who interchangeably belong to various organizations that uphold each other.

The tremendous outpouring of monetary support for the Grant Volunteer Fire Department at a shootout last week during the home basketball game proves that theory.

The Grant Lions Club hosted a fundraiser for the fire department to show the community's appreciation to the fire department personnel and provide a financial boost following their response to many area fires during the hot, dry summer.

Incredibly, the amount from donations plus committed pledges comes to a total of $11,515 to be passed along to the Grant Fire Department as a gift from the community it serves.

Seven local residents took part in a halftime shootout to raise the funds. Some people chose to make pledges toward each successful basket by their chosen shooter. Other people simply dropped money in collection jars at the basketball game against Ogallala on Thursday, Dec. 20.

A large crowd of spectators had a good time watching the participants and cheering for their designated shooter who each represented a local service club or organization. Volunteers from the local clubs served as ball retrievers, time keepers, score keepers and ball organizers.

Those taking a shot at the basket included Ivan Regier, John Long, Don Softley, Toni Wyatt, Jayson Bishop, Ryan Potts and Mike Mayer.

“That event shows that the community, when it gets together, can accomplish great things,” said Ron Patrick of the sponsoring Grant Lions Club. “We all feel like that’s a very valuable lifesaving organization in this community.”