

March 28, 2022

2023 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants

Enclosed is the 2023 Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant application project proposal form. The grant application deadline is July 1, 2022. The end of this grant period will be June of 2023.

General Information: The Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant program is a cost-share program. It provides financial and technical assistance to Minnesota fire departments in cities or communities with a population under 10,000. The primary objectives of the program are saving lives and protecting property in rural areas.

Level of Assistance: Approximately 150 to 175 grants up to \$5,000 are awarded in Minnesota annually. The grants are made on a 50:50 match basis. As an example, if your application is for \$2,000.00, a \$1,000.00 reimbursement would be the maximum match awarded. Rural fire departments must use the grant money for fire protection and comply with existing State and County rural fire protection plans.

Priorities: Priority is given to fire departments that have the greatest need. Additional considerations include the type of project, fire runs and number of previous years funded. Fire departments will not receive funding if MFIRS (MN Fire Incident Reporting System) reports are not filed with the State Fire Marshal's office each year.

EXAMPLES of acceptable projects:

- Establishing a new fire department or re-organizing a non-active fire department.
- Converting Federal Property vehicles to fire control rigs.
- Communications equipment – pagers or radios must be compatible with the counties' 911 system.
- Rural water cistern system.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), both wildland and structural.
- Water movement apparatus (hose, nozzles, pumps, slip in units, foam units, etc.)

Grants are NOT allowed for:

- Repair or construction of buildings.
- Urban water systems including wells.
- Land acquisition.
- Routine maintenance, such as tires, batteries, radios batteries, tune-ups.
- Emergency medical supplies, ambulance equipment, water rescue items, etc.
- Purchase of vehicles, UTV's or ATV's or trailers.
- Thermal imaging cameras
- Sirens
- Used equipment.