



April 05, 2024

2025 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants

Enclosed is the 2025 Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant application project proposal form. The grant application deadline is July 1, 2024. The end of this grant period will be June of 2025.

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.

Notification of grant awards should be made in late July or early August of 2020; however, the amounts of grants awarded will depend on the availability of state and federal funds. If awarded a grant, fire departments will be sent a grant agreement contract indicating the amount of matching funds they will receive. Any purchases made before the begin date indicated on the Grant Contract, will not be accepted. Fire departments not awarded a grant will be emailed a notification.

Please visit our website for more details on the different programs that the Department of Natural Resources offers.

[Rural fire department assistance - Grants - Assistance: Minnesota DNR](#)

Sincerely,

Tim Oland
Rural Fire Department Coordinator
218-322-2688
Tim.Oland@State.MN.US

Shelly Greniger
Fire Programs Specialist
218-322-2692
Shelly.Greniger@State.MN.US

Attachments: Application Form

Complete application and email to: VFAGrants.dnr@state.mn.us July 1 Deadline

Governing representative	Fire Chief
Name:	Name:
Email:	Email:
Phone:	Phone:
Governing representative official address:	Fire Department:
	FD Address:
	FD Phone:
	FD Email:

Federal Unique Entity Identification number (UEI)

Application will not be processed without UEI

1. Population directly benefiting from the project: _____
2. Fire Department's protection area (square miles): _____
3. Number of fire incidents for the previous year: wildland _____ structural _____ other _____
4. Fill in the estimated total cost of the project(s) and the Grand total the dollar amount requested.

\$	Wildland Personal Protective Equipment	\$	Structural Turnout Gear
\$	Excess Property Equipment Conversion	\$	Radios/Pagers
\$	Wildland Equipment	\$	Breathing Apparatus
\$	Water Movement Items	\$	Safety Equipment
\$	Other Miscellaneous Projects (Describe)	\$	Water Storage System

Grand Total Dollars Requested \$

Fire Department Chief's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Office use only:

Grant approved up to \$	Priority is for
Approval/Date	Contract Number
Modified project	Approval date