

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Forest Protection

625 Broadway, 3rd Floor, Albany, New York 12233-2560

P: (518) 402-8839 | F: (518) 402-8840 | Rangers@dec.ny.gov

www.dec.ny.gov

May 1, 2020

Re: **2020 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant**
Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 30, 2020

Dear County Coordinator:

We are pleased to announce the start of the 2020 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant program. The enclosed application is also available on-line from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) website at www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2364.html.

The Department receives annual federal funding for the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant program. In 2020, the Department received a federal appropriation of \$583,180 for the purpose of soliciting and awarding competitive fire assistance grants. Fire departments eligible to apply may receive grant funding up to \$1,500 for the purchase of eligible firefighting equipment. Fire departments are required to equally match (50/50) the amount of the grant award. As an example, a fire department is required to spend up to \$3,000 on the purchase of approved firefighting equipment in order to be reimbursed an equal grant amount up to \$1,500.

Upon notification of receiving an award, fire departments are required to complete their grant process paperwork by October 30, 2020. This process includes the purchase and receipt of the approved firefighting equipment, provide supporting cost documentation for the equipment purchase (copy of receipt paid in full), an on-site inspection by a Department Forest Ranger to verify the equipment was purchased, and a NYS Standard Voucher signed by both the fire department and a Department Forest Ranger.

Program eligibility requirements remain the same as previous VFA grant years. Fire departments in towns with populations of 10,000 or more may be eligible if they meet the eligibility requirements listed on the VFA application. Please read these requirements on the application carefully.

Only expenses directly related to fire suppression are eligible for funding. **Funding cannot be applied to any single item costing \$5,000 or more.**



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Eligible items: portable pumps, portable backpack pumps, hand tools, hose, light-weight fireproof clothing (Nomex), hard hats, turnout gear, personal protective equipment, portable radios, generators and dry hydrants.

Items NOT eligible: search and rescue equipment, acquisition of land, construction of buildings and facilities, major apparatus purchases and maintenance items.

Training for rural firefighters is available and provided for under a cooperative agreement with the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services' Office of Fire Prevention and Control and is jointly funded with federal and state dollars.

A fire department's success or failure in receiving a competitive grant award is based on the following point system:

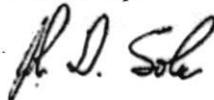
- Population (ex: less than 1,000 = 10 points; 1,000-2,000 = 9 points.....)
- ISO rating (ex: rating of 9 = 10 points; 5/5x = 5 points; 8 or less = 1 point)
- Newly organized department = 10 points
- Native American Indian community in protection area = 10 points

Points will be deducted on a pro-rated basis from the total of these four factors above if a VFA grant was previously awarded to the fire department within the last five years. A point will be added for each year the eligible applicant submitted an application, but did not receive an award. This point system may assist fire departments who applied in the past, but were not awarded a grant.

Only one application per local jurisdiction will be considered eligible for funding. An application submitted to the Department must be received by the **deadline of June 30, 2020**.

Last year 626 volunteer fire companies requested funding to purchase eligible firefighting equipment. The Department was able to grant funding to 371 applicants.

Sincerely,



John D. Solan
Acting Director
Division of Forest Protection

Enclosure

2020 VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE (VFA) GRANT APPLICATION
Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978
PL95-313 SECTION

SECTION 1: Fire Department Information

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 30, 2020

Fire Department ID# (5 digit)

Non-Profit Gov't Entity Tribal Org Other

Name of Fire Department

Mailing Address (Line 1)

Physical Address (Line 2)

City

State

Zip Code

County

What **Town** is your firehouse located in?

The population of your fire district is:

Are you a **new** Fire Department organized within the past 12 months?

Yes No

Are there any Native American Indian Communities within your fire district?

Yes No

The I.S.O. Fire Protection Insurance Rating of your jurisdiction is:

If the name of your jurisdiction in the I.S.O. listing is not the same as the name of your fire department, indicate the name of the jurisdiction below:

SECTION 2: Contact Information

Salutation

First Name

Last Name

Suffix

Phone Number

Fax Number

Email Address

SECTION 3a: Project Description:

Describe Project and Impact on Fire Departments Total Protection Plan: **SEARCH AND RESCUE EQUIPMENT IS NOT ELIGIBLE.** NOTE: Only costs incurred after January 1, 2020 can be used for this year's grant.

SECTION 3b: Project Equipment list and cost:

Please list equipment and cost below: **SEARCH AND RESCUE EQUIPMENT IS NOT ELIGIBLE.**
NOTE: VFA Grant funding CANNOT be applied to an individual item costing \$5,000 or more.

Enter the total amount of financial assistance requested*:

*NOTE: At least 50% of the cost of your grant project must be available from other sources.

SECTION 4: Certification of Eligibility

NOTE: A single community fire department serving a population greater than 10,000 AND NOT providing protection to a rural area or rural community is NOT ELIGIBLE for VFA financial assistance.

Please select the choice that represents your fire department's eligibility:

- A. B. C. D.

- A. A single fire department serving a rural area or rural community with a population of 10,000 or less is eligible. (per latest census)
- B. Area fire departments (fire districts, townships, etc.) may serve an aggregate population of greater than 10,000 as long as the service area of the fire department includes a rural area or rural community having a population of 10,000 or less. The VFA funding must be used to benefit the rural population.
- C. A single county or town with a population of over 10,000 that is served by two or more fire districts operating entirely within the bounds of the county or town may qualify as long as the service area of a given fire department includes a rural area or rural community or the population of the fire department's jurisdiction is 10,000 or less. The VFA funding must be used for the rural area.
- D. A single community with a population greater than 10,000 and having a single fire department with one or more fire stations may qualify. The fire dept must have a service area that includes a rural area or community that does not exceed 10,000 populations. The VFA funding must be used only for the benefit of the rural population. Similarly a single community with population greater than 10,000 that also provides fire protection to an adjoining rural community of 10,000 or less population by contract may also be eligible provided the VFA funding is used entirely to support the rural community.

By checking this box, I certify that all information provided is accurate and the above-named fire department is eligible for grant assistance. I attest that, based on my personal knowledge, the above information is accurate and true. I acknowledge that pursuant to Environmental Conservation Law Section 3-0301(2)(q), any false statements made herein are punishable in accordance to Section 210.45 of the New York State Penal Code.

Certifying Applicant (signature / print name)

Date Submitted:

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Email: vfagrant@dec.ny.gov (save & attach Application)

OR

Mail to: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Forest Protection
625 Broadway - 3rd Floor
Albany, NY 12233-2560

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