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October 1, 2024

TO: Johnny Sabo, Thomas Barrett, Bo Chesser, FMOs, and Chief Rangers

FROM: Emily Hamilton

SUBJECT: NFP/VFA Grant Program Announcement

Please share the following information with fire departments serving communities with populations of less than 10,000 in your counties.

We will begin accepting requests for the NFP/VFA grant, which allows purchases from the options listed below on October 1, 2024. This will be an on-going grant application period. Fire Departments will be able to apply for the grant throughout the year. Applications will be reviewed for approvals on a quarterly basis. The online grant application can be accessed and submitted at <https://tinyurl.com/p83xpsbh>. For complete program details visit: <https://gatrees.org/fire-prevention-suppression/rural-fire-defense-lease-program/>.

Eligible Items

1. Table 512.A, 544.A, 544.B, and Appendix A items are allowed for purchase under this grant.
Note: Breathing apparatuses or UAS/Drones are not available for purchase under this grant!
2. Fire department pump test equipment such as PTO gauges, vacuum/pressure test gauges, deluge guns with nozzle tips, and RPM counters.
3. Emergency red lights and scene lighting.
4. Wildland PPE and hand tools.
5. Class A and/or B foam systems, foam concentrates that support wildland response.
6. New this Year: Slip-on units
7. New this Year: Communications equipment (radios, alerting systems) that directly support wildland fire response and maintains interoperability with state forestry agency fire suppression resources (**NOTE: GFC uses VHF and LTE Broadband**). **Excludes Scanners/receivers.**

Grant parameters require awarded applicants to obtain at least 3 bids for items purchased. This does not have to be done during the application process but will be required for all approved applicants before purchase is made and reimbursement request submission.

Fire Departments may qualify for reimbursement of up to 50% of \$10,000.00 or \$5,000.00 maximum per government entity. The 50/50 matching rule will apply to all amounts less than the maximum. Entities who are approved for grant award must be prepared to take on all costs up-front and then apply for reimbursement. Non-Awardees will be notified of their status by email. Awardees will be forwarded an information packet to include grant documentation instructions and how to submit reimbursement request.

I am available to answer any questions you may have regarding the current NFP/VFA Grant Program.

Emily Hamilton
GFC RFD Manager
478-751-3504 or 912-515-4035