

VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE GRANT

2020 GUIDELINES

“Assistance to Increase Rural Fire Department’s Capacity”

Sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and the
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Forestry

1. This is a 50/50 matching fund program. Federal funds will pay up to 50% of approved program expenditures with the local fire department paying at least 50% or more.
2. A restriction will be placed upon the amount of funding which may be provided to departments regardless of funding requested due to the limited federal funding for this program.
3. Local matching funds must be available at the time the application is submitted and these funds must match the federal funds dollar for dollar.
4. To qualify for grant funding consideration, a department **MUST** have a Fire Department Identification Number (FDID), registered through the Louisiana State Fire Marshal’s Office.
5. Applying departments **MUST** be enrolled in and reporting any structural and/or wildland fires through the Louisiana Fire Incident Reporting System (LFIRS) or the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) by **2021**.
6. Purchase(s) must be made during the **2020** calendar year for inclusion, following receipt of the award letter. Purchase(s) made prior to the date listed on the 2020 V.F.A. award letter **WILL NOT** be eligible for cost-share assistance.
7. Only departments serving communities with 10,000 or less population counts (current census) may be considered for funding. However, “multi-community” departments may be approved even though the 10,000 population limit is exceeded within the area served, provided no single community served exceed the 10,000 population count. A department or fire district is considered to be “multi-community” if within the official area served there exist two or more recognized communities, each of which must contribute financial support towards and combine resources for the operation of a single department serving all the communities involved.
8. Only departments officially recognized and authorized by RESOLUTION or ORDINANCE of the legally constituted governing body of the area served will be considered for grant funding.
9. Examples of equipment/apparatus which may be purchased with grant funds are as follows: Nomex clothing, bunker gear, hoses, nozzles, hand tools, radios, generators, foam application equipment, slip-on pumping units, materials and labor required to outfit and equip excess military vehicles. Only fire suppression equipment or Personal Protective Equipment (PPE’s) may be purchased.
10. **Any single item, with a total cost of \$5,000 or more WILL NOT be approved for grant funding consideration.**
11. Request for funding **WILL NOT** be considered for the following:
 - A. Repair or construction of buildings
 - B. Land acquisition
 - C. Water lines and hydrants
 - D. Any equipment not fire related such as medical or extrication equipment.
 - E. Routine operating expense (phone bills, utility bills, insurance, etc.)

Training is considered a high priority item which should be regularly conducted by all departments; however V.F.A. funding for training will be limited to special needs and programs only, by prior approval of the V.F.A. Program Administrator of this agency.

12. Communities/departments imposing strict boundary limits which exclude rural residences or use a subscription response system **will not be considered for funding.**
13. Federal auditors require all non-expendable property purchased under the program having a value of \$300 or more and a useful life of more than one year be marked and identified as property acquired under Section 7, Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978. Departments shall maintain records on these cost-shared items and approval must be secured prior to any future disposal of these items.
14. Only the original application with an original signature will be accepted. Faxed or e-mail applications will not be accepted.
15. If funds are approved for your department, they must be **SPENT BY THE DISBURSEMENT REPORT'S DUE DATE.** If cost-share assistance funds are not spent by that date, your department will lose that portion of the funds.
16. All purchases expended under the V.F. A. Program must be verified by:
- a photocopy of check, credit card, etc. used to purchase the equipment along with the item(s) invoice.
17. Mail the completed ORIGINAL application to:

**LDAF - Forestry
Attention: 2020 V.F.A. Grant
5825 Florida Blvd., Suite 6000
Baton Rouge, LA. 70806**
18. All applications must be received at this office by: **4:30 p.m., July 1, 2020.** Any application received after this date will not be considered for funding; therefore, it is suggested that 5 - 7 weekdays be allowed for mailing.

TIMELINE

- March 1, 2020: Applications available for download and submission
July 1, 2020: Completed applications must arrive at the Office of Forestry, Baton Rouge Headquarters
Sept. 1, 2020: Applicants are notified of their "Approval" or "Disapproval."
March 1, 2021: Deadline for completed Disbursement Reports, along with supporting documentation to arrive at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Applications, Disbursement Reports and Guidelines can be found at: www.ldaf.state.la.us

VFA Deskguide: www.fs.fed.us/fire/partners/vfa/help/table_of_contents.htm

NOTE:

If additional information regarding the V.F.A. Program or the grant application is required, please contact:

Bret Lane @ (225) 925-4500
bret_l@ldaf.state.la.us