Volunteer Fire Assistance

VFA Grants

The federal funds provided to Rhode Island are distributed to local volunteer fire departments through a grant program.

VFA grants are available on an annual basis and in 2022 applications will be made available and accepted 15 June - 31 July. Grant recipients can receive 50% reimbursement of approved costs, up to a maximum reimbursement of $2,500 for eligible equipment items, such as Nomex clothing, pumps, hoses, tanks, fire shelters, small fire suppression equipment, personal protective equipment and dry hydrants.

Funding may not be used for:

- Any single piece of equipment >$5,000
- Vehicles (trucks, cars, ATVs)
- Capital improvements
- Land acquisition
- Medical equipment
- Fire hose >2.5” in diameter
- Equipment which is not wildland fire related
- Extrication type equipment

**NOTE:** Where the total grant requests received are in excess of available funds, new applicants and those not having received an award in the past 2 grant cycles will be prioritized.
VFA Grants awarded in 2021

Past Recipients Include:
- Albion, Charlestown
- Chepachet
- Cumberland
- Exeter #1
- Foster Center
- Harmony, Hianloland
- Kingston, Limerock
- Misquamicut
- Moosup Valley
- Quinville
- South Foster, Union
- Watch Hill
- West Glocester
- West Greenwich

Items included:
- Radios, Foam and Foam System, PPE, Hardware, Radios, Chainsaws, Skid unit parts, Pumps and accessories, Hand Tools, Nozzles, AED for brush unit, Dry Hydrant

Partial List of Items Eligible for Purchase with a VFA Grant
- Jump Suits, Brush Coats, Nomex Pants, Helmets, Goggles, Gloves, Chaps, Boots
- Indian Pump Tanks/Bladder, Float Pump, Portable Dump Tanks, Portable Pumps
- Ax, Pulaski, Adze Hoe, Council Rake, Fire Rake, McLeod Tool, Chainsaw, Fire Shovel, Combi Tool, Fire Broom, Drip Torch
- Nozzles, Gates/Wyes, Water thieves, Clamps, Adapters
- Small Mop-Up Kit, GSA Mop-Up Kit, Dry Hydrant components
- Foams, Water Gels, Applicators/Educators
- Dry Hydrants

ELIGIBILITY: Project MUST support/benefit a rural community or defined rural area with a population ≤ 10,000

☐ Applicant is the local rural Fire Department (population ≤ 10,000)
Name ___________________________

OR

☐ A larger community/county that provides contractual fire-fighting services to a rural community/area ≤10,000
Community/County applicant name ________________________
Rural Community/Area the project will serve ________________________

OR

☐ A station in a larger community whose specific jurisdiction is a rural community/area with a population ≤ 10,000
Community/County applicant name ________________________
Fire Station/District name/# ________________________
Rural Community/Area the project will serve ________________________

Rhode Island Division of Forest Environment
www.dem.ri.gov/programs/forestry/fire-program/vfa-grant.php/