

## Narrative Statement for Hiring of FireFighters

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**Element #1** - Project Description (30%): This statement should describe the following:

- Why the applicant needs the grant funds;
- How the requested firefighters will be used within the department;
- A description of the specific benefit these firefighters will provide for the fire department and community.
- If the applicant is requesting funding under the rehiring of firefighters activity, the narrative should provide details as to when and why the vacancies occurred and how the vacancies have affected the service to the community.
- Applications must also discuss how the grant would enhance the department's ability to protect critical infrastructure.

1. The six eliminated firefighter positions provide service capacity to the fire department response system. Due to economic conditions, Sedgwick County Fire District #1 altered deployment in two fire station locations in early 2014 to meet budget constraints. The change reduces the number of available firefighters on duty each Sedgwick County Fire District #1 is requesting \$967,380 for six firefighter positions eliminated in the current budget. These job losses are due to money not being appropriated to replace fire fighters who have left or retired. The loss of these six positions will diminish the services provided by the department.

Sedgwick County Fire District #1 has been particularly impacted by the recent downturn in national and global economies. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in January of 2009, the manufacturing sector in Sedgwick County had 66,200 employees. From this point until December of 2014 15,400 manufacturing jobs were lost. Overall the manufacturing sector has declined by 24%, to 50,800.

Since 2011,, the Sedgwick County Fire District #1 (which is funded by personal property taxes), has seen a steady decline in growth from 3.7% in 2011 to 1.2% in 2014. The average projected growth in valuation over the next two years is only 2%.

Sedgwick County Fire District #1 has strategically reduced eight positions. Two positions in the Administrative staff were eliminated in January of 2012. These positions were a Fire Prevention Education Specialist and a Division Chief of Training position. Expenditures over the years, projection of continued economic stress in the future led to the elimination of six additional Operations level Firefighter positions in the 2014 budget. These six positions were eliminated through attrition in March of 2014. Which in effect eliminated two floor personnel daily; changing the daily staffing goal from 44 to 42 per

day (a reduction of 4.6%). Federal funding will enable firefighter staffing and service levels to remain unchanged.

Federal funding will enable firefighter staffing and service levels to remain unchanged. Service and deployment changes are described below.

Change at Station 31: Station 31 serves the Community of Andale. The station is currently staffed with one Water Tender and two personnel. Due to the attrition and budget constraints, station staffing was reduced from three personnel on an Engine Company. This change eliminated one firefighter position on each shift (total of three).

Change at Station 39: Station 39 serves the Community of Garden Plain and Viola along with the recreational area of Lake Afton. The station is currently staffed with one Water Tender and two personnel. Due to the attrition and budget constraints, station staffing was reduced from three personnel on an Engine Company. This change eliminated one firefighter position on each shift (total of three).

The changes above reduced the service capacity of Sedgwick County Fire District #1; impacting the capability of the department to form an effective emergency response force in a timely manner in the western areas of the County. Changes impacting the timely formation of an effective response force and/or forming Company arrival has reduced the frequency of meeting the objectives of NFPA 1710, and delayed the accomplishment of critical tasks, as well as decreased overall service to these communities.

**Request Details**

Activity						Action	
Hiring of Firefighters						<a href="#">View Details</a>	
Type of positions	Number of positions	Cost Per Firefigher				Overall Total	Action
<b>Attrition</b>	6	Compensation Per Firefighter	1st Year	2nd Year	Total	967380	<a href="#">View Details</a>
		<b>Base Salary</b>	40792	41261	82053		
		<b>Benefits</b>	39490	39687	79177		
		<b>Totals</b>	80282	80948	161230		

**Applicant's Acknowledgements**

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- \* I certify the DUNS number in this application is our only DUNS number and we have confirmed it is active in SAM.gov as the correct number.
- \* As required per 2 CFR § 25.205, I certify that prior to submission of this application I have checked the DUNS number listed in this application against the SAM.gov website and it is correct and active at time of submission.
- \* I certify that the applicant organization has consulted the appropriate Funding Opportunity Announcement and that all requested activities are programmatically allowable, technically feasible and can be completed within the award's Period of Performance (POP).
- \* I certify that the applicant organization is aware that this application period is open from 02/09/2015 to 03/06/2015 and will close at 5 PM EST; further that the applicant organization is aware that once an application is submitted, even if the application period is still open, a submitted application cannot be changed or released back to the applicant for modification.
- \* I certify that the applicant organization is aware that it is solely the applicant organization's responsibility to ensure that all activities funded by this award(s) comply with all applicable Federal regulations, laws, and Executive Order to include Federal Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) regulations and Procurement regulations as per 2 C.F.R. § 200.317 through 2 C.F.R. § 200.326 and other applicable federal laws and standards. The EHP Screening Form designed to initiate and facilitate the EHP Review is available at: <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/90195>.
- \* I certify that the applicant organization is aware that the applicant organization is ultimately responsible for the accuracy of all application information submitted. Regardless of the applicant's intent, the submission of information that is false or misleading may result in actions by FEMA that include, but are not limited to: the submitted application not being considered for award, an existing award being locked pending investigation, or referral to the Office of the Inspector General.
- \* I certify that the applicant organization is aware that the grants awarded under this funding opportunity are provided a recruitment period, which begins when the application is approved for award. The recruitment period for grants awarded under the Hiring of Firefighters Category is 180-days and the period of performance automatically starts after the recruitment period, regardless of whether the grantee has successfully hired the requested firefighters. The recruitment period for Recruitment & Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Category is 90-days and the period of performance automatically starts after the recruitment period.

Signed by **LaWanda DeShazer** on **2015-02-23**