

Firefighting Equipment - Narrative

The program narratives should provide all the information necessary for you to justify your needs and for the program office to make an award decision. In the program narrative sections, please explain your needs and how the grants funds will be utilized. A panel of your peers will review the narratives below and the financial need narrative in the Applicant Characteristics II section as part of their evaluation of your entire grant application.

Please ensure that your narrative clearly addresses each of the following areas to the best of your ability. Follow the sequence and specifically address each of the following topics:

- **Section #1** Project Description: What are you requesting funding for, including budget descriptions of the major budget items, i.e., personnel, equipment, contracts, etc?
- **Section #2** Cost/Benefit: What benefits will your department or community realize if the project described is funded? Provide justification for the budget items relating to the cost of the requested items.
- **Section #3** Statement of Effect: How would this award impact the daily operations of your department? How would this award impact your department's ability to protect lives and property in your community?

The narrative statements must provide all the information necessary for you to justify your needs and for FEMA to make an award decision. A panel of peer reviewers will perform the second phase of the applications' evaluations by using the narrative statements below, along with the answers to the general and the activity-specific questions, to determine the worthiness of the request for an award.

Note: Fields marked with an * are required. Each element must have a minimum of 200 characters and each element will have a character limit; the limit varies based on the questions being asked. The character count will be listed below each text box.

*** Section # 1** Project Description: In the space provided below, include clear and concise details regarding your organization's project's description and budget. This includes providing local statistics to justify the needs of your department and a detailed plan for how your department will implement the proposed project. Further, please describe what you are requesting funding for, including budget descriptions of the major budget items, i.e., personnel, equipment, contracts, etc. ***4000 characters**

Sedgwick County Fire District #1 is seeking to replace old mobile and portable 800 MHz radios. Most of the departments current portable radios are over 11 years old and are no longer being manufactured. These radios are beyond their life expectancy and we are struggling to keep them repaired and in service. Our department is at a point where the manufacturer will no longer guarantee parts availability. The proposed project for portable radios would involve the purchase of 102 portable radios with remote speaker microphones. These radios will all be staged in truck mounted chargers which would be installed in seated firefighter and officer positions. Sedgwick County Fire District #1 has always strived to provide the personnel with proper safety equipment and the portable radios on each person would meet the NFPA guidelines of radio communications between interior attack crews and command officers. By purchasing the radios proposed, the department will be able to provide each responding firefighter with quality, clear and dependable portable radios with external noise reduction capability. The addition of the remote speaker microphones will provide clear communications while the fire personnel are wearing full protective clothing.

The Fire District is additionally seeking to replace the mobile radios in all response vehicles. The mobile radios are 7 years old and no longer manufactured. These radios have reached the age where the manufacturer no longer has the parts for the radios. The biggest hurdle faced is the control heads. We cannot find replacement radio control heads except in the used marketplace. As these control heads fall in need of repair we are having to take radio control heads from the command vehicles to use until we can find a used replacement. The project being proposed, will replace all of the mobile radios in the response vehicles to include the two radios attached to the mobile repeaters in the staff command

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*** Section # 2 Cost/Benefit:** In the space provided below please explain, as clearly as possible, what will be the benefits your department or your community will realize if the project described is funded (i.e. anticipated savings and/or efficiencies)? Is there a high benefit for the cost incurred? Are the costs reasonable? Provide justification for the budget items relating to the cost of the requested items. ***4000 characters**

Cost / Benefit

The cost of the project is \$789,108 to outfit the Fire District with up to date radios for all response vehicles and for each responding firefighter to have a portable radio with remote speaker mic. The cost to the District would be \$71,737. The failure of radio communications is repeatedly cited as the cause of many firefighter accidents and fatalities in accident reviews and reports. By providing up to date communications equipment in the vehicles and hands of the personnel, we are striving to provide as safe of an environment as possible. Each and every on-scene member of The District will have a portable radio. The communications equipment purchased to be carried on interior attack crews will meet the intent of the NFPA standards to maintain constant radio communications with exterior personnel. Additionally, by purchasing equipment that is P25 compliant and meets the SAFECOM Guidance for Emergency Communication Grants, the District will have interoperability with neighboring departments, the State of Kansas Radio system, Federal agencies and other South Central Kansas Regional response agencies.

The Fire District will provide a competitive bid competition and will use its own in house mechanics and the County Radio shop to reduce the costs. This should result in no additional overhead or administrative costs to the grant project.

Sedgwick County Fire District #1 is the responding Hazardous Materials Team for the South Central part of Kansas. Furthermore, the Fire District is a large player in the South Central Region Technical

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*** Section # 3 Statement of Effect:** How would this award impact the daily operations of your department? How would this award impact your department's ability to protect lives and property in your community? ***4000 characters**

Statement of Effect

Sedgwick County Fire District #1 has been able to operate on the 800 MHz radio system since 1989. Throughout the years the department has been able to keep up with radio replacement, but that is no longer within the budget capability. With the current cost of the P25 radio equipment, the inability to obtain repair parts for current radios and the current fiscal status of the Fire District, the capacity of the Fire District to continue to provide quality interoperable radios to individual firefighters will not be achievable. One of the greatest risks noted in tragic fire scene fatalities, is the failure of communications or the lack of radio interoperability. The acquisition of this equipment will factor in our departments ability to avoid those common problems on everyday responses.

If the grant is awarded, the Fire District will be able to put the interoperable radio equipment in use every day. The department operates out of nine stations and provides the Regional Response teams. The District has responded on just over 9100 alarms in 2014 and over 9800 in 2015. The call volume has been increased consistently every year. By having interoperable and up to date radio communications, the department will be able to provide a well-informed response and be able to operate more safely in hostile environments as well as, meeting the NFPA standards and interoperable requirements. This will not only provide for safer fire response, but additionally make the emergency scenes function more effectively. In this manner the District will provide for a better coordinated response and increase the ability to save lives and property, not only in the immediate jurisdiction, but also in the auto and mutual aid areas of our neighbors, during Haz Mat and Technical Rescue responses throughout the state, but

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