

FY 2025 VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE GRANT

Federal Grant IDs:

23-DG-11094200-004, 23-DG-11094200-322, 23-DG-11094200-373, 24-DG-11094200-221, 25-DG-11094200-234

GENERAL INFORMATION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, through the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act, has allocated funds to the ODNR Division of Forestry for the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant Program. These funds will be distributed to fire protection agencies based on the Act and the federal guidelines.

1. The grants are 50/50 matching reimbursement grants. A Fire Department that receives a grant must purchase all grant items prior to receiving reimbursement for 50% of the total cost of all project items. A maximum of \$10,000 has been placed upon the amount of federal reimbursement grant dollars to be awarded to any one multi-community project or individual fire department.
2. Local funding must be available for the initial purchase of all items if the application is approved.
3. Only purchases made after grants are awarded will be eligible for reimbursement. Proof of purchase and proof of payment made by the department must be submitted to ODNR Forestry by October 30, 2026.
4. Only Fire Departments who provide primary fire service coverage within the ODNR Forestry Wildfire Protection Area and are based within the Wildfire Protection Area are eligible for this opportunity.
5. Only Fire Departments whose firefighting staff are composed of at least 80% volunteer personnel as recorded in the US Fire Administration National Fire Department Registry are eligible for this opportunity. The USFA NFDR is checked for each applicant to ensure they meet this criteria. FDs must be registered on the USFA NFDR to qualify for this grant.
6. Only Fire Departments who serve a community of under 10,000 population qualify for this grant. FDs may serve a total population of over 10,000 as long as they do serve an individual community (township, village, etc.) with a qualifying population. For multi-community projects, the 10,000 limit may be exceeded and still qualify, providing none of the participating communities individually exceeds the 10,000 population limit.
7. Priority will be given to departments in greatest need for the following projects based on grant scoring criteria:
 - A. Multi-community projects (county-wide projects or bulk purchases with four or more fire departments) or projects sponsored by county or regional fire associations.
 - B. Purchase of wildland slip in pump units for trucks & all terrain and utility vehicles (ATV/UTV)
 - C. Purchase of wildland personal protective equipment meeting NFPA 1977 Standard for Wildland Fire Protective Clothing (includes wildland fire shelters).
 - D. Conversion of Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) & Fire Fighter Property (FFP) equipment to fire fighting apparatus.
 - E. Purchase of communication equipment with preference given to equipment compatible with Ohio's MARCS system.
 - F. Purchase of Utility Vehicles and All Terrain Vehicles (UTV & ATV).
 - G. Purchase of emergency response PPE including turnout gear and airpacks meeting NFPA standards.
 - H. Purchase of hand tools, power tools and associate PPE, hose, nozzles, fittings, dry hydrants, training items, accessory items, other items used to carry forth the mission of the FD.
 - I. Projects not in the priority list will receive secondary consideration for funding.
8. Clothing or boots that do not meet NFPA specifications are not eligible for reimbursement.
9. Communities imposing strict boundary limits which exclude rural residences or using a subscription or a fee response system will not be considered
10. Departments **must** have a Fire Department Identification number (FDID) to qualify.
11. Departments **must** have a UEI number that is registered with SAM.gov to qualify.
12. Departments **must** be registered in OhioPays in order to receive funds

FY 2025 VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION

INSTRUCTIONS

Type or print all information. Each blank must be filled in and the application must be signed by the Chief or authorized designee of the fire department. Applications may be mailed or emailed.

The deadline for return of the application to the Division of Forestry is January 15, 2026

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

- **UEI (Unique Entity ID) Number:** Applicants must have a valid UEI Number that is registered with SAM.gov in order to receive funding. Enter the 12-digit UEI number you use to identify your agency on the application. If you don't currently have a UEI number, you can request one on SAM.gov. For information on registering or updating your UEI number information, please visit the "Help" section at www.sam.gov. Applications with no or invalid UEI numbers will not be considered for VFA funding. Grant funding will be awarded to the entity that is registered under the UEI that is provided on the application.
- **State of Ohio OhioPays:** Applicants must have an OhioPays number and profile in order to receive funding. Because this grant involves transfer of money from the State of Ohio, the grant recipient is considered a supplier/payee to the State of Ohio and therefore must be registered in OhioPays. Applicants must ensure that the correct/preferred payment address is included in their State of Ohio OhioPays profile. Applicants can verify/sign up as a State of Ohio supplier and manage their account at: <https://ohiopays.ohio.gov>
- The shaded area in the graphic to the right shows the ODNR Forestry Wildfire protection area. **Only Fire Departments who provide primary fire service coverage within this area and are based in the area are eligible for this opportunity.**
- Applications for Multi-Community grants must have data for **all** participating fire protection agencies, with one agency designated as primary. The primary FD will be the fiscal agent for the grant.
- Any single piece of equipment purchased through the VFA program that costs \$10,000 or greater is subject to USDA Forest Service property management and property disposal guidelines. Because of property control guidelines, certain high-cost items such as trucks, boats, and fire apparatus may be non-qualifying purchases. ODNR Forestry will provide further instructions to successful candidates who are in this situation.
- Because of federal funding guidelines, UAVs (drones) are non-qualifying purchases



APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED OR EMAILED NO LATER THAN JANUARY 15, 2026

SEND APPLICATIONS TO:
AARON KLOSS
ODNR - OHIO DIVISION OF FORESTRY
2045 MORSE ROAD H-1
COLUMBUS, OH 43229
PHONE: 614-265-6896
EMAIL: aaron.kloss@dnr.ohio.gov

**ODNR DIVISION OF FORESTRY
FY 2025 VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE (VFA) GRANT APPLICATION**

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED/EMAILED NO LATER THAN JANUARY 15, 2026

Fire Department Name: _____

FDID#: _____ UEI#: _____ OhioPays Supplier ID#: _____

FD Address: _____ City: _____

Zip: _____ County: _____ Township: _____

FD Federal Tax ID#: _____

Fire Department Composition

Fire department composition information is pulled from the US Fire Administration National FD Registry. FDs listed as Volunteer or Mostly Volunteer will be given consideration for funding.

Reference:

<https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/registry/download>

Fire Dept Operating Budget (Average Annual)

***EXCLUDE LARGE ONE-TIME GRANTS OR CASH INFUSIONS**

Source	\$ Amount
Tax Levy	
Donation / Fund Raiser	
Other funding source	
Total Budget \$:	

Resident population of primary fire coverage area (US Census data): _____

Total area in square miles of primary fire coverage area: _____ sq. miles.

Clearly describe the items that will be purchased using the grant funding. Include estimated costs and specifically what the funding will be used to purchase. The amount awarded to applicant will be based upon estimated costs of the project, so please be specific and accurate. Include the total project cost and the amount of reimbursement requested (\$10,000 maximum reimbursement, not exceeding 50% of total project cost). Attach additional narrative, budget, and cost estimate sheets as needed:

Grant will be used by: (check one)

Single FD	<input type="checkbox"/>
Multi-Community	<input type="checkbox"/>

(List FDs involved in project):

Fiscal Officer / Payment Address information:

Name _____ Phone _____
Email _____

Address to which reimbursement from ODNR Forestry will be remitted - this address must be listed on applicant's OhioPays profile at <https://ohiopays.ohio.gov/>

Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Applicant Contact information:

Name Day Phone Cell Phone
Email address: _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge and that the fire department or political subdivision I represent has the intention to complete this project should the grant be awarded and that I have authority to submit this application.

X _____
Signature of Fire Chief or authorized designee Date

Print or Type Name of Fire Chief or authorized designee Phone Number