



Volunteer Fire Fund
NC General Statutes 58-87-1

Questions We Will Answer

- What is the Volunteer Fire Department Fund
- How is it funded?
- How much can the fire department request in matching funds?
- Can my fire department participate?
- What are the 'Fire Grant' timelines?

What is the Volunteer Fire Department Fund?

A dollar-for-dollar matching grant to assist fire departments that are in the most need to purchase equipment and to make capital improvements to reduce their insurance classification

How is it funded?

The NC Dept. of Revenue collects a portion of the Fire & Lightning coverage from all NC licensed insurance companies from property insurance premiums.

How Much Can the Fire Department Request in Matching Funds?

NC Dept. of Insurance will match dollar-for-dollar up to \$30,000.00 for the purchase of equipment and to make capital improvements.

Is My Fire Department Eligible to Participate?

Fire department must be rated or actively working with the NC Dept. of Insurance, Fire Department Rating & Response section.

The fire department must be all volunteer, with the exception of 6 (six) paid personnel.

The fire department must serve a population of 12,000 or less.

How to Submit a Grant Application

Grant applications may be submitted using a web interface with the NC Department of Insurance, www.ncdoi.gov/OSFM

Select OSFM Divisions, Fire and Rescue Grants and Relief Funds. Choose Volunteer Fire Department Fund and “Submit Online Grant Application.”

Grant Timeline

January

Fire Chiefs are notified the application is available online the first working day of the new year

March 1

Deadline to submit the online application

May 15

Grant recipients announced

Sep 30

Invoices & forms must be postmarked to NC DOI

How Are Grant Recipients Selected?

A point system is used for all applications received. Each application is given a score.

Funding received from the NC Department of Revenue is entered into the database.

The computer selects applications with the lowest score (in the most financial need) until the available funding is exhausted.

Frequently Asked Questions

My organization is owned and operated by a municipality or county, can we apply?

Yes

My department provides fire protection AND rescue services, do we provide only the information regarding the fire service?

No. Information for the entire entity must be provided, including all funding and equipment.

More Frequently Asked Questions

Does the fire department have to request the full \$30,000.00?

No. We will match dollar-for-dollar up to the \$30,000.00 maximum.

What type of equipment can we apply for?

Personnel protective equipment, misc. related fire equipment, vehicles and buildings. Equipment to help the fire department lower their insurance rating.

More FAQ's

What is typically not approved through the Fire Grant?

Training aids, physicals, physical fitness equipment, furniture, or rescue equipment. (Call DOI if in doubt)

Can the department order the equipment prior to the May 15th announcement date?

No. Equipment ordered prior to May 15th will not be honored.

More FAQ's

Can the fire department purchase used/refurbished/reconditioned equipment?

No. Equipment purchases must be new. (Exception is vehicles with one year service/maintenance records and some apparatus may require a certified pump test)

Are Extensions Allowed?

The Fire Grant Application must be received by midnight on March 1st. If you wait until March 1st to file, and have computer problems, you may miss the deadline. Our office is here to walk you through the process if necessary, but we are not available after 5 p.m.

Exceptions to the Rule!

All invoices must be submitted or postmarked no later than
September 30.

We will allow a 30 day extension for turnout gear upon request.

Delivery of apparatus/vehicles and capital projects can be extended up to February 15.

Do We Have to Wait to Submit Invoices?

Does the Fire Department have to wait until September 30th to submit the invoices?

No. Upon delivery of all of the approved equipment, you may submit the invoices. The quicker you get all your invoices to us, the quicker we can issue your check! Check Requests are made to the Controller's office each Friday.

Backordered Equipment

After you are awarded the grant you should order your equipment as soon as possible. If your backordered equipment is not received and invoiced on or before *September 30th*, it will not be paid.

Contact Information

For any questions regarding the grant application process contact:

NC Department of Insurance

1-800-634-7854

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