Assistance to Firefighter Grant

Grant Example for Road Safety – EMS

This guide and example covers the narrative parts of the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG). Each section has many questions that are asked, especially in the demographics area. You will need to do research to find accurate information to complete all sections of the grant. You cannot have any unanswered questions. All grants that are missing information will be automatically rejected in the first round by the computer. Only those grants that have answers to every question move on to the second stage of evaluation. Your information must be accurate and complete. It is important that your grant reflects your department; this is what the strength of your grant will be.

All of the narrative that is below is suggested language and may not apply to your department or situation. Change, delete, or add any language to make the grant reflect accurately your service and situation. The most important thing is to be accurate and to fully explain what you are doing and why you need financial assistance. Please replace all XXX with your department information.

Department Characteristics (Part I)

Department Description

XXX EMS is the sole provider of basic and advanced life support for XXX County/City. XXX EMS serves a population of XXX,XXX according to the 2016 US Census. The median household income is $XX,XXX compared to the state average of $XX,XXX. XX% of persons living in XXX County/City lives below the poverty line compared with XX% statewide and 14.3% nationally. XXX EMS has XXX employees and according to our dispatch records from 1/1/2016 until 12/31/2016 we responded to XX,XXX medical calls.

(Completely describe how your system works here. Who first responds to calls and who transports patients? Do you provide mutual aid to other agencies? How are disaster responses handled? Are there cooperative agreements between other response agencies and yours?)

(List all Critical Infrastructure in your jurisdiction here including: government buildings, power generation stations and plants, electrical substations, high voltage transmission lines, hydro electric power facilities, public drinking water facilities, water treatment plants, public safety radio towers, public television stations, public radio stations, Emergency Broadcast System components, microwave towers, military installations including National Guard facilities, major telephone switching stations, stadiums, universities, community colleges, civic centers, special laboratories or other specialized facilities, manufacturing plants, miles of interstate highway, miles of US and state highways, airports, hospitals, trauma centers, bridges, public and private schools, bus stations, train stations, rivers, and any other specialized asset that is unique to your area.)(This is one of the most important areas of the grant application.)

Department Characteristics (Part II)

Budget Narrative

The total XXX EMS budget for 2016 was $X,XXX,XXX. This is down from last year by $XX,XXX. With the recession and diminishing property values, overall taxable assessments are down. Our department has adjusted non-essential services down to accommodate the overall budget shortfall. We have placed a request in our budget for this equipment, but with limited funds it has not been funded or approved. With so many people out of work and without health insurance, we find more and more individuals that cannot pay their tax and EMS bill.

Our focus in these tough economic times has been on providing medics in the streets. Our call volume continues to rise with no additional funding available. Capital expenses, such as this data coordination system, while vital, are secondary to operating funds. XX% of our budget goes to personnel costs. Additionally, other costs such as fuel and supplies have skyrocketed. All of these factors combined have made it impossible to introduce new capital projects. Grant funding is the only way to make a purchase such as this.

We expect property values to continue to fall and this will result in a continued decrease in tax revenues. State and local governments are cutting taxes and this affects our operation directly. Our population and call volume continues to grow however our funding availability does not.

Why do you need Federal Assistance?

In the past five years we have added more and more technology. Technology is necessary to provide the services that we do. With so many different types of technology and many which do not connect together, we need to find a product that will tie all of our data technologies together and connect them to our agency, hospitals, paramedics in the field, physicians, our medical director, dispatch, and our emergency operations center seamlessly. It is vital that we get to emergency scenes safely and in an expeditious manner. We need to track emergency vehicles so that the closest unit is dispatched (Automated Vehicle Location AVL), we need to receive information about patients in the field when it is available, provide inbound status to hospitals of EMS units and patient conditions, coordinate ePCR's (electronic patient care records), and other electronic data as necessary and coordinate that data so it is disseminated in a logical and understandable manner. Currently all technology systems that we operate run independently of each other and do not communicate with other systems. All of these systems need to work together to provide complete data and up to date information for response, quality management, tracking of resources, and policy management. All aspects of our operation can be improved with proper data management. Coordination of ambulances responding to calls can be improved, medics in the field can receive data about the call they are dispatched to and potential information about the patient, hospitals and physicians can receive real time information about the inbound arrival status of patients so that early triage and room assignments can be made. Our focus has been good patient care and use of products that meet immediate patient needs. We have come to the

point where in order to further improve patient care; we need to coordinate all of the technology products into one.

Request Details

EMS Equipment

Section #1 Product Description

This project proposes to purchase equipment that would coordinate

This system would provide a wide variety of benefits to our department. The first and foremost is the increased safety of our medics as they respond to scenes and when they return on critical EMS calls. Responding under emergency situations provides a real threat each time a vehicle is driven or a red light is breached. One of the most frequent causes of EMS medic injury is a vehicle collision. Driver training is a good first step, but this system monitors each driver's performance to provide them immediate feedback to remind them to maintain safety and reduce accidents. This crash prevention is vital in many aspects. As you can see from the costs and injury figures provided above this is a serious issue. According to NFPA data from 1990 until 2009 there were a total of 84,810 ambulance crashes in the United States with 590 fatalities and 28,969 injuries. This system will help avoid accidents which will reduce deaths, injuries, and costs due to vehicle incidents. In addition to vehicle damage costs, when a vehicle is in an accident, many times it is down for a period of days or weeks. This directly affects our operation. Next is the reduced potential for injuries in accidents. Injuries of course directly affect our operation and the lives of our medics. Pain and suffering, costs of injury and employee replacement, workman's compensation costs, and insurance costs are all issues that negatively affect our department. If this system prevents even one injury to a medic, it is well worth it. Another effect of this monitoring system is lowered vehicle maintenance costs. If drivers are driving with less force on the vehicles and in a safer manner, vehicle fuel mileage increases, brake wear decreases, and there is less stress on the vehicle in general. Many EMS agencies that have installed one of these systems in the past have experienced reduced costs in all of the above areas and improved safety of personnel. This meets the goals of everyone in the department from administration to the individual drivers of apparatus. This system exceeds all standards in the industry including NFPA and other standards as administered by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Section #2 Cost/Benefit

We are requesting a total of $XXX,XXX for this system and we estimate that with reduced accidents and reduced maintenance costs, we will save $XX,XXX each year for many years to come. It is impossible to place a cost on the increased safety that this system will bring and the prevention of injuries to our personnel. Driving is a daily occurrence and cannot be curtailed, however how we drive can be improved and safety can be increased. Keeping our firefighters safe is our highest priority. The benefit of reducing accidents, reducing injury, reducing vehicle damage, reducing vehicle downtime, reducing maintenance

costs and more add up to a tremendous asset to the general operations of our department. The costs of backfill for injured personnel alone are tremendous.

In order for our department to help others in need, we need to get to the call first. Driving lights and siren through heavy traffic and against signals is always hazardous. Many times new employees do not understand all of these hazards and have not learned to drive in a responsible manner. Aggressive driving is an industry hazard when operating an emergency vehicle, mitigating that aggressive behavior increases safety and reduces vehicle operating expenses. This system will enforce low forces driving that potentially could save their life or lives of the general public. The training is reinforced by continuous monitoring that provides immediate feedback to the driver with audible tones so that the driver is aware that he or she is placing undue forces on the vehicle. In addition these tones are registered inside the device in the vehicle to provide feedback to supervisors on each driver's performance. This feedback to supervisors can lead to further training or positive feedback for drivers.

Section #3 Statement of Effect

This driving system will help our department meet or exceed all standards for safe vehicle operations of our apparatus in our community. This will improve our overall operations by helping to protect our staff and the citizens we serve in the community. Reducing accidents of ambulances will improve our standing in the community and will have the very real effect of saving lives, suffering, and money. Our operations are very negatively affected by EMS apparatus accidents. Injuries, damage to vehicles, down time of important equipment, time spent on repair of vehicles, workman's compensation claims, loss of work time, disability, delays in responses to medical calls, and so much more. Every accident that is avoided provides multiple positive effects for our operation. It is obvious that this would improve our department's ability to protect lives and property in our community.

Section #4 Other Issues Not Covered

The main purpose of this request is to ensure that our vehicle operators are operating fire apparatus in the safest manner possible following all department policies and procedures. Secondarily this helps us keep personnel, vehicles, and equipment in optimal shape to respond to emergency calls when needed without any delays. Keeping personnel healthy and vehicles running allows us to respond in an appropriate and make the difference we want to make in the community. This system also helps us reduce operating costs.

Installing this system will be promoted within our community to show that we are working to keep our personnel and the general public safe. This will be positive publicity for our department and for the AFG grant process.

Budget

(In this section you will need to fill in all budgetary numbers to complete the project. Remember to include any installation costs, training costs, backfill, and of course all equipment costs. Your salesman should be able to provide you with quotes for equipment and estimates for other costs.)

Assurances

(Please read over all of the assurances in this section. You will need to sign off on all of these to complete the grant process.)

Grant Signature

(Whoever submits the grant will need to apply their electronic signature to complete the grant submission process.)

Other Information

Do not wait until the last minute to submit your grant. Many times the online government website will slow down significantly or crash because so many people are trying to submit grants in the final hours. If you can submit at least three days ahead of the final date, it would be best. When you submit your grant you should get an email at the one you submitted to confirm that your grant has been received.

Assistance to Firefighter Grants are awarded in phases over a period of months. Rejection notices are not usually sent out until all grants have been awarded. If you are not awarded a grant in the first few phases, there is still a chance you could be funded. They award grants based on scores and move down the list until the money runs out.

Once you have submitted your grant, contact your state Congressmen and Senators. Provide then a basic overview of your grant proposal and the grant number that was assigned to your grant and ask them to lobby for your grant. Do not underestimate how effect congressional lobbying can be on your behalf.

Make sure all areas of the grant are filled out before submitting it and make sure your grant states what you are trying to accomplish and matches what your department goals are. The most unique thing you have going for you is the uniqueness of your own department and how you serve your citizens. Good luck!!