



SFY 2026 Volunteer Fire Department Grant (VFDG) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Grant Issued By: Missouri Department of Public Safety

Funding Opportunity Title: SFY 2026 Volunteer Fire Department Grant (VFDG)

Introduction: The Missouri Department of Public Safety is pleased to announce the funding opportunity for the Volunteer Fire Department Grant (VFDG). This state administered program is funded through the State of Missouri.

Program Description: The purpose of the VFDG is to provide grant funding for volunteer or combination fire department entities for fire protection. Fire protection entities include fire departments as defined in [section 320.200\(3\) RSMo](#) as an agency or organization that provides fire suppression and related activities, including, but not limited to, fire prevention, rescue, emergency medical services, hazardous material response, or special operation to a population within a fixed and legally recorded geographical area.

Period of Performance: 5 months

Projected Period of Performance Start Date: December 15, 2025

Projected Period of Performance End Date: May 15, 2026

Funding Instrument: Grant

Maximum Award: \$15,000.00 per applicant agency. Funds in the amount of \$1,455,000.00 are available for this program.

Match Requirement: 5% Cash (Hard) Match

For example, if the total cost of the project is \$15,789.47, the recipient match share of 5% would be \$789.47 and the state share of 95% would be \$15,000.00.

Eligible Applicants: Missouri volunteer or combination fire department entities with an annual operating budget of \$50,000.00 or less.

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To be eligible for VFDG funding, the applicant agency must be compliant with the following statute:

☐ **Section 320.271 RSMo – Fire Department Registration**

Pursuant to [section 320.271 RSMo](#), All fire protection districts, fire departments, and all volunteer fire protection associations as defined in section 320.300 shall complete and file with the state fire marshal within sixty days after January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, a fire department registration form provided by the state fire marshal.

Selection Criteria: Funding will be distributed on a first come, first served basis, based on application submission date and time.

Ineligible Applicants:

- ☐ Agencies that are not fire protection entities as defined in [section 320.200\(3\) RSMo](#).
- ☐ Agencies that are not volunteer or combination fire department entities
- ☐ Agencies with an annual operating budget greater than \$50,000.00
- ☐ Agencies that are not compliant with the above listed statutes
- ☐ State agencies

Eligible Cost Items: The Missouri Department of Public Safety’s objective in awarding VFDG funding for fire protection entities is to support fire protection/service activities in the state of Missouri. Eligible costs may support equipment and supplies. Some equipment items related to fire protection/service activities have specific requirements to be eligible for funding. Those with specific requirements are listed below. Please note, the items listed below are not the only eligible equipment items.

☐ **Turnout Gear**

Agencies seeking funding for turnout gear must have a policy to document cleaning and maintenance processes and procedures for turnout gear. Recipients of funding for turnout gear must supply the Missouri Department of Public Safety with a copy of such policy(s) and procedure(s) at the time of claim submission.

☐ **Interoperability Equipment (Portables/Handhelds, Mobiles, Repeaters, Base Stations, etc.)**

Investments in emergency communications systems and equipment must meet applicable [SAFECON Guidance](#). All radios must meet the Missouri Department of Public Safety, Office of the Director, DPS Grants [Radio Interoperability Guidelines](#). The Missouri Interoperability Center (MIC) will review all communications equipment applications to ensure they comply with the [Radio Interoperability Guidelines](#). **Quotes are required to be submitted with the application for all interoperability equipment.** Applications that do not meet these guidelines will not be eligible for funding.

NOTE: Agencies seeking any type of radio or radio-related accessory are encouraged to contact the Missouri Interoperability Center by phone at (573) 522-1714 or by email at moswin.sysadmin@dps.mo.gov to ensure compliance with the Radio Interoperability Guidelines and the appropriate communication devices are

purchased for the department's needs. The Missouri Interoperability Center staff can also provide helpful information regarding the department's ability to access the MOSWIN and how to articulate such within the grant application.

Unallowable Cost Items:

- ☐ Vehicles
- ☐ Drones/Drone Accessories
- ☐ Construction/Renovations
- ☐ Items Affixed to a Facility
- ☐ Personnel
- ☐ Benefits
- ☐ Travel/Training
- ☐ Contractual
- ☐ Firearms
- ☐ Ammunition
- ☐ Less Lethal Weapons
- ☐ Lobbying
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Corporate Formation
- ☐ State and Local Sales Taxes
- ☐ Aircraft
- ☐ Military-Type Equipment
- ☐ Interoperability equipment that is not compliant with the Missouri Statewide Interoperability Network (MOSWIN) and Radio Interoperability Guidelines.

Application and Submission Information:

- 1. Applications will only be accepted through the Missouri Department of Public Safety (DPS) online WebGrants System:** <https://dpsgrants.dps.mo.gov/index.do>
- 2. Key Dates and Times**
 - a. Application Start Date:** October 15, 2025
 - b. Application Submission Deadline:** Funding opportunity will be closed when eligible applications have been received to fulfill the amount of funding available.
- 3. Agreeing to Terms and Conditions of the Award**

By submitting an application, applicants agree to comply with the requirements of this NOFO and the terms and conditions of the award, should they receive an award.

As part of the VFDG application, eligible applicants must complete all application forms and provide all required documentation:

- 1. Contact Information Form**
- 2. DPS Grants State Requirements Form**

3. Interoperable Communications Form

4. Project Package – VFDG

5. Budget

6. Named Attachments:

- a. Copy of Most Recent Approved Operating Budget (Required)**
- b. Quote or Cost Basis**
- c. Turnout Gear Maintenance Policy (Required only if requesting Turnout Gear)**
- d. Other Supporting Documentation**
- e. Other Supporting Documentation**

Contact Information:

Grant Specialist – Maria Robinett
(573) 522-2126
Maria.Robinett@dps.mo.gov

Lead Grant Specialist – Joanne Talleur
(573) 522-2851
Joanne.Talleur@dps.mo.gov

Grants Supervisor – Chelsey Call
(573) 526-9203
Chelsey.Call@dps.mo.gov

DPS Grants Program Manager – Joni McCarter
(573) 526-9020
Joni.McCarter@dps.mo.gov