

# Missouri Department of Conservation

## Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant Opportunity

This grant offering is for fire departments wishing to apply for a Volunteer Fire Assistance Matching Funds Grant. The application form is enclosed. In order to be eligible for funding, completed applications must be submitted to the Forestry Section and/or postmarked by Friday, October 14, 2022.

1. In order to be eligible for funds, fire departments must have a current Mutual Aid Agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation.
2. Grant funds are available to organize, train, and equip fire protection units in rural areas for the purpose of saving lives, protecting property and suppressing wildland fires.
3. Grant funding will be awarded for 50% of approved purchases with a maximum reimbursement of \$4,000 and a minimum of \$250. This means that if approved, your department must spend \$8,000 to receive the \$4,000 maximum, and \$500 must be spent in order to receive the \$250 minimum. Fire department funds must be available and committed when application is made.
4. Fire departments which have a completed and MDC-approved *Community Wildfire Protection Plan* (CWPP) will be eligible for an additional \$500. Grant funding will be awarded as stated in item 2 above, but the maximum reimbursement will be \$4,500 (fire department must spend \$9,000 to receive \$4,500 reimbursement). *Note: to be eligible, fire departments must include a copy of their MDC-approved CWPP containing all approving signatures along with the grant application.*
5. Only communities or protection areas with populations of 10,000 or less with a current Mutual Aid Agreement with Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), Forestry Section, are eligible. Current Mutual Aid Agreements must be on file with MDC at time of application submission.
6. Reimbursement shall not be made for purchases made prior to the date of the award letter.
7. Grants will be evaluated based on information submitted on the application. Information which is incomplete or illegible will result in a lower ranking of the application. False or incorrect information will void your application.
8. Applications **will not** be considered for the following:
  - a. Repair or construction of buildings
  - b. Land acquisition
  - c. Water lines and wet hydrants (dry hydrants will be considered)
  - d. Any operational expenses such as insurance, vehicle or building repairs, extended warranties or service packages, utility bills
  - e. Vehicle, trailer, ATV or UTV purchases
9. Highest priority will be given to fire departments filling needs for wildland personal protective equipment, wildfire suppression equipment and communications equipment. Past cooperation in reporting wildfire suppression activities of the fire department to MDC is also considered when awarding grants.