



GRANT GUIDELINES

THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND

The Community Foundation of Abilene (or "Foundation") established the volunteer fire department (VFD) fund in an effort to support rural and VFDs. This funding opportunity provides added support for VFDs to purchase safety and equipment needed to serve and protect our neighbors in these communities.

▶ ELIGIBILITY

The Foundation welcomes proposals from verifiable, tax-exempt VFDs (full-time paid departments are excluded). Exemption documentation must be provided with the online proposal. If this is not available but you still believe your organization is eligible to receive grant funds, please contact Foundation staff to discuss.

▶ SERVICE AREA

Grant applications will be accepted from VFDs serving in the following counties: Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor, and Throckmorton.

▶ FUNDING GUIDELINES

Most grants will range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Larger grants may be considered. Below is a list of priority funding areas:

- Personal protective equipment (structural and wildland)
- Communication devices
- Safety and firefighting equipment
- Training (medical and firefighting)
- Trucks (partial funding)
- Capital/building needs

Requests will not be considered for equipment losses that are covered by insurance.

▶ APPLICATION PROCESS

The Foundation utilizes an online grants management system called, "Foundant GLM." Application information must be submitted through this online system. A login link to Foundant GLM, as well as system tutorials, is available on the Foundation website, cfabilene.org. Paper applications are not accepted.

▶ TIMELINE AND NOTIFICATION

Application opens January 1 and application deadline is February 15. The Foundation and grant committee will review throughout the month of March. Award notifications are made by March 31. If the VFD is awarded a grant, both the VFD Chief and a city or county official will be required to sign the official grant agreement.

▶ EVALUATION

The Foundation requires an evaluation form to be submitted to report on the impact of programs it funds. Using the online grants management system, Foundant GLM, the evaluation form must be submitted prior to applying for a grant in the future. **Proof of fund expenditure is required by each December 31.**

▶ MORE INFORMATION

Questions? Contact Meagan Harris, *rural grants manager*, at mharris@cfabilene.org or 325-676-3883, ext. 108.