

# Volunteer Fire Assistance

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### What Is Volunteer Fire Assistance, anyway?

Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) is a Federal grant program that provides funds for fire equipment, training, and initial fire department organization to fire departments serving small communities under 10,000 in population.

### Where do these grant dollars come from?

Congressionally appropriated VFA funds are provided to Kansas Forest Service through the USDA Forest Service. The Kansas Forest Service pass this money on to qualifying fire departments within their states.

### Who may apply for VFA grants?

Any fire agency or volunteer fire department that serves a community of 10,000 or less may apply.

### Who qualifies for VFA grants?

The Kansas Forest Services has established criteria defining priorities based on need. Each fire department grant request is compared to the criteria and grants are allocated to meet the greatest needs for equipment, training, or organizational assistance.

### What may a small department do with VFA grant dollars?

A department may buy fire equipment, pay for training or training materials, or cover the cost of department incorporation, as long as the funds are matched. VFA funds are granted on a 50/50 matching basis. In other words, the department must match the dollars, dollar for dollar, in money, time, or equipment.

### How large are most VFA grants?

Most grants are \$4,999.00 or less. Actual amounts depend on the VFA funding allocated to the particular State, which in turn depends on Congressional action.

### Where can I get more information on VFA grants and how to apply in Kansas?

Contact the Kansas Forest Service State Fire Management Officer at 785-532-3314 or [bwaln@kfs.edu](mailto:bwaln@kfs.edu)