



NEW MEXICO EMNRD FORESTRY DIVISION

Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Fact Sheet

FY26 Distribution

Forestry Division State Forester and US Forest Service endeavorsto:

- Organize, train, and equip fire departments in unprotected rural areas and rural communities.
- Assist qualifying fire departments in saving lives and protecting property in unprotected or inadequately protected rural areas.
- Prevent or reduce loss of life, protect financial investments, and enhance environmental quality to revitalize rural America.

Funding Agency

The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDA FS) Southwest Region 3 provides this grant through New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources – Forestry Division that funds equipment and training grants through the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant. This grant provides volunteer fire departments financial, technical, and related assistance to organize, train and equip local firefighters for the protection of rural areas and communities of 10,000 persons or less. These grants require applicants meet the eligibility criterion and pass a competitive and technical review of equipment and supply requests.

Eligibility Criteria

- Provides service **primarily** to a community or city with a population of less than 10,000. (Latest census).
- Is recognized as a fire department by the laws of the State.
- Firefighting personnel is 80 percent or more volunteer.
- The community share (10% match) of the financial assistance must be available at the time of application.
- Applicants may not derive their share from other sources of Federal assistance.
 - Maximum per grant award will be \$20,000.00 for equipment/PPE/training. A Wildland Coordinator position grant maximum is \$24,999.00.
 - The Wildland Coordinator position **may** be awarded for 2 years. Cost of \$4,999 or less for a single item.
 - Wildland boots or footwear is not allowed.
- Starting in 2025 (FY26) Vendor Quotes are required for all equipment and supply requests .Applicants meeting the identified Eligibility Criteria listed above are encouraged to apply.

VFA GRANT CONTACT INFORMATION

For grant policy or procedural questions, contact Gabriel Cordova, VFA Coordinator by telephone at 505-629-2041 or Email: gabrielf.cordova@emnrd.nm.gov.

VFA GRANT APPLICATIONS

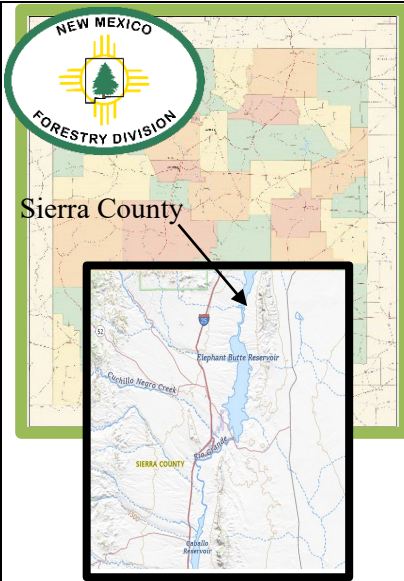
Applications available from your Forestry Division District Office Fire Management Officer or on-line at: <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/requests-for-proposals-and-grants/>.

IMPORTANT DATES

- *Application Period: August 18, 2025 – September 26, 2025 (40-day application period). *Request for Applications (RFA) will be published in the Albuquerque Journal Sunday August 14, 2025.
- Peer Reviews: October 2025 (Projected review dates.)
- Award Notification: November/ December 2025
- Denial Reconsideration Period and Equipment Substitution Request: December 2024
- Notice To Proceed: January 2026
- Purchase Period: February - November 2026
- *Extensions will no longer be available due to extending the deadline from December to April.
- Reimbursement Requests Deadline: April 30, 2027

FY25 VFA GRANT AWARDS

Candy Kitchen VFD	\$20,000.00
City Of Rio Communities FD	\$17,911.63
City Of Rio Communities FD	\$24,999.00
Philmont VFD	\$19,864.29
Monticello VFD	\$20,000.00
Sierra County Fire Admin	\$5,253.31
Pinos Altos VFD	\$17,077.00
Arabela VFD	\$5,702.27
Bonito FD	\$19,920.06
Lincoln County Fire Admin	\$15,676.48
Lincoln VFD	\$5,102.39
Nogal VFD	\$17,272.89
White Oaks VFD	\$13,221.23
Dungan VFD	\$16,928.40
Blanco FD	\$15,573.80
Cedar Hill FD	\$12,708.00
Center Point FD	\$12,708.00
SCFR South FD	\$24,999.00
Agua Fria FD	\$17,953.23
Chimayo FD	\$17,953.23
Edgewood FD	\$17,953.23
Eldorado FD	\$17,953.23
Galisteo FD	\$17,953.23
Glorieta Pass FD	\$17,953.23
Hondo FD	\$17,953.23
La Cienega VFD	\$17,953.23
La Puebla FD	\$17,953.23
Madrid FD	\$17,953.23
Pojoaque FD	\$17,953.23
Stanley FD	\$17,953.23
Tesuque FD	\$17,953.23
Turquoise Trail FD	\$17,953.23
San Cristobal VFD	\$20,000.00
Taos County Admin	\$20,000.00
Taos County Admin	\$24,999.00
Cochiti FD	\$20,000.00
Cochiti FD	\$24,999.00
Red River VFD	\$18,533.30
Los Chaves FD	\$16,637.35
Angel Fire FD	\$20,000.00
Angel Fire FD	\$24,999.00
Cimarron VFD	\$17,851.29
Cuba VFD	\$19,995.73
Cuba VFD	\$24,999.00
Folsom VFD	\$20,000.00
Taos Ski Valley VFD	\$20,000.00
Taos Ski Valley VFD	\$24,999.00
	\$854,275.64



FY25 VFA SUCCESS STORY

County Of Sierra Emergency Services

Sierra County Emergency Services is made up of 7 county volunteer fire departments and one fire administration office operating out of 11 stations and 1 fire administration staffed with 2 paid members and 100 volunteer firefighters. Our service area is 4236 square miles with elevations ranging from 4100' to 9600' with fuel types ranging from Chihuahuan desert to timber forests.



The VFA grant has been essential in increasing our firefighting capacity within our county. This grant has helped by providing much needed personal protective equipment, apparatus equipment, Bendix King radios, and fire hose/fittings. This equipment meets the RMP requirements and has been placed on a reserve type 6 brush truck available for county wide fire response to help us build capability by allowing us to provide for safety, not only to our firefighters, but to our communities we protect.

This apparatus is available as a backup type 6 engine for any of our fire districts in the event that one of their units is down for repairs. The increasing effectiveness that this equipment has given Sierra County Emergency Services and also helping our surrounding communities and partners by allowing us to provide adequate mutual-aid response to all emergency's. Two other districts have also received equipment to outfit four brush trucks with all the vital equipment.





EMNRD NEW MEXICO FORESTRY DIVISION VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE GRANT for **Wildland Fire Coordinator**

This Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant is available to county and municipal fire departments who *qualify. A reimbursable grant up to \$24,999.00, invoiceable every calendar quarter and will augment salary for wildland fire coordinator position. An Invoice and Project Tracking Excel Workbook will be provided to assist and guide the coordinator. *See the attached FY25 VFA Grant Fact Sheet for qualifying criteria.

This position is responsible for implementation of county wildland fire management activities with federal, state and local government agencies, having responsibility for wildland fire management. This effort will require coordination efforts with county/municipal/tribal fire departments and community organizations, federal, state and local government agencies having responsibility for wildland fire management, including the appropriate inter-agency dispatch center.

EXAMPLES OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED

- **use or create Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)** to develop fire protection policies and ordinances that will meet the objectives of the CWPP. Participate in wildland/urban interface assessment planning and assist in coordinating projects in communities at risk as defined within the county and in coordination with Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department – Forestry Division and other federal, state and local government agencies and the public.
- **work with county fire chief and volunteer department chiefs** to develop policies, guidelines, regulations and ordinances, pertaining to wildfire fire management and prevention, county-wide and within volunteer department response areas;
- **make recommendations** to the fire chief's various performance-based ideas and settings for the proper and efficient operations of the office as it pertains to wildfire protection, planning or other aspects of wildfire operations;
- **serve as liaison** to the Forestry Division in the event of a wildland fire within the county; this includes education, training, recovery and response;
- **coordinate wildland fire management activities** and participate in wildland/urban interface assessment planning and assist in coordinating projects in communities at risk as identified in the CWPP with the Forestry Division and other federal, state and local government agencies and the public.
- **participate in the New Mexico Resource Mobilization Plan** coordinating group's annual meeting. Create a red card system for county fire fighters and departments in conjunction with the Incident Qualification System.

*For a complete list of Wildland Fire Coordinator tasks see attached Job Description.

The FY24 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Request for Applications begins on Monday August 21, 2023 develop and implement countywide standards for wildland and structural firefighting training to make fire fighters aware of safety issues and improve their performance;

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New Mexico Forestry Division VFA Wildland Coordinator Success Story

Taos County – Village of Taos Ski Valley Fire Department

In NM State Fiscal Year 24 Village of Taos Ski Valley also received a Wildland Coordinator Grant of \$24,999.99 to hire a Wildland Coordinator, to assist in wildland training in surrounding communities, assist with CWPP updates and priority projects.

Garret Hanson continues with:

“The Village of Taos Ski Valley was the recipient of the VFA Wildland Coordinator Grant, and it was implemented in 2024. Being able to fund hiring a qualified Wildland Coordinator brought the experience necessary to oversee and build a quality wildland fire program. This includes local response, being a part of the state RMP program and participating with our cooperators on local prescribed fires. Relationships have strengthened between the Village of Taos Ski Valley and it's surrounding cooperators. NWCG courses can now be taught in house along with the department's IQS being kept up to date and organized. VFA and CWPP grants continue to be applied for to not just better the department but the community. The Village of Taos Ski Valley received an NFL grant that went without production until a Wildland Coordinator was hired and six months later there have now been 13 individual units completed and counting, along with putting local contractors to work. Should this position continue to be funded and supported the success of the department and community will only grow.”



Village Taos Ski Valley Fire Department on their first RMP assignment in Oregon assisting on the Battle Mountain Complex as party of a team mobilized by New Mexico's Forestry Division.

Article from October 30, 2023 :

Crews Wrap Up Pile Burning at Taos Ski Valley for Now

Fire crews completed another 45 acres of pile burning within the Taos Ski Valley resort area today. With 90 acres accomplished, all high-priority areas that would immediately affect winter visitors have been mitigated. The remaining 113 acres of piles will be treated at future time. The piles are the result of fuels reduction, mostly blowdown from the December 2021 snow squall. Other piles were created from hazard tree mitigation and trail development.

Crew members used drip torches to light piles that were dusted with snow overnight. The fire consumed the piles and by the end of operations, smoke was drifting away from the valley.

Today's ignitions were conducted by numerous partners, including two new groups today. The All-Hands All-Lands Burn Team from the Forest Stewards Guild and members of the Carson Hotshots joined Taos Ski Valley resort staff, Village of Taos Ski Valley Fire Dept., Red River Fire Dept., Latir Volunteer Fire Department, Taos County Fire Dept. and other Forest Service personnel.

Both projects are in the Enchanted Circle Landscape and support efforts of the [Wildfire Crisis Strategy](#).



NM Forestry Division offers free Wildland Fire Suppression Trainings coordinated by the local Forestry Division District Office. Offered annually, September through May, courses such as the RT-130 Annual Wildland Firefighter Safety Refresher, Basic Wildland Fire Fighting (S-130/S-190/L-180), S-211 Pump Operations and many of the other NWCG courses. These courses are funded by Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grants and provide professional qualified instructors and course materials.

Send us pictures of your VFA Grant purchases along with your fire departments success stories. Contact: VFA Coordinator Gabriel Cordova Gabrielf.Cordova@EMNRD.NM.GOV

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Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights,
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights,
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
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