



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

**SOLICITATION # 33501- 2025264
AMENDMENT # 1
FOR THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER EQUIPMENT
AND TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM**

DATE: March 16, 2020

SOLICITATION # 33501-2025264 IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

1. This Solicitation Schedule of Events updates and confirms scheduled Solicitation dates. Any event, time, or date containing revised or new text is highlighted.

EVENT	TIME (central time zone)	DATE
1. Solicitation Issued		February 14, 2020
2. Disability Accommodation Request Deadline	2:00 p.m.	February 26, 2020
3. Written "Questions & Comments" Deadline	2:00 p.m.	March 13, 2020
4. State Response to Written "Questions & Comments"		March 20, 2020
5. Response Deadline	5:00 p.m.	March 27, 2020
6. State Completion of Technical Response Evaluations		April 9, 2020
7. State Notice of Intent to Award Released and Solicitation Files Opened for Public Inspection	2:00 p.m.	April 17, 2020
8. End of Open File Period		May 1, 2020
9. State sends contract to Contractor for signature		May 15, 2020
10. Contractor Signature Deadline	2:00 p.m.	June 8, 2020

2. State responses to questions and comments in the table below amend and clarify this RFP.

Any restatement of RFP text in the Question/Comment column shall NOT be construed as a change in the actual wording of the RFP document.

SOLICITATION SECTION	PAGE #	QUESTION / COMMENT	STATE RESPONSE
6.5	4	1. Which counties are considered distressed counties?	The economically distressed counties were identified through Gov. Lee's Executive Order 1. A list of the 15 counties is available at: https://www.tn.gov/transparenttn/openecd/openecd/tnecd-performance-metrics/openecd-

SOLICITATION SECTION	PAGE #	QUESTION / COMMENT	STATE RESPONSE
			long-term-objectives-quick-stats/distressed-counties.html
		2. What are the expectations for the grant narrative?	The space provided below the question "How will the proposed expenditures made with this grant assist your department in improving firefighter safety and protecting lives and property in your jurisdiction?" is there to help fire departments clarify or explain their request. Responses to this question will not be part of the evaluation and scoring done by the Department of Commerce and Insurance.
		3. Which fiscal years' budgets need to be included in the application?	Fiscal years ending in calendar years 2016, 2017 and 2018 should be included.
		4. Is Volunteer Firefighter Equipment and Training (VFEAT) grant funding available for federal grants that have not yet been selected for award?	The VFEAT grant is intended to provide funding to pay or reimburse the cost share for federal grants that have already been awarded.
		5. Is there a local cost share required for the VFEAT grant program?	No, there is no local cost share or match.
		6. What equipment is eligible for funding?	Equipment used by a firefighter to contain or extinguish fires and to protect the life of the firefighter, other than fire trucks or vehicles.
		7. How does a fire department register as a supplier in Edison?	Instructions on how to register as a supplier with the State of Tennessee are available at: https://hub.edison.tn.gov/psp/paprd/SUPPLIER/SUPP/h/?tab=PAPP_GUEST
		8. Is there a maximum amount of funding available to a fire department?	\$500,000 of funding is available to volunteer fire departments. The maximum amount award for a single applicant is expected to be \$250,000.

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		9. How can fire departments get the 5 points for complying with the annual financial reporting requirements of the Comptroller of the Treasury?	Fire departments that are not a part of a local government will be awarded 5 points if they have submitted an annual financial report for the most recent fiscal year.
		10. What fire departments are eligible for the VFEAT grant?	Fire departments with valid recognition certificates from the State Fire Marshal's Office and that are staffed by less than 51% full-time career firefighters are eligible.
		11. Which firefighters are considered to comply with the minimum training standard?	Firefighters that have completed both the 16-hour and 64-hour training courses. Firefighters that were hired or joined the department less than 36 months ago. Firefighters who entered the fire service before June 30, 2004.
3.5	1	12. When is the deadline to submit applications?	5:00 p.m. Central, March 27, 2020.
4.4	2	13. Where should applications be submitted?	Applications must be delivered to either: Greg.Adams@tn.gov or Greg Adams Department of Commerce and Insurance 500 James Robertson Parkway Davy Crockett Tower, 9th Floor Nashville, TN 37243
		14. Who is considered a volunteer firefighter?	A duly appointed member of a fire department on either a non-pay or part-pay basis who is neither employed in a full-time capacity with the department nor eligible to receive the educational incentive pay issued pursuant to T.C.A. § 4-24-202 as a member of the department. Volunteers may receive life insurance, health insurance, workmen's compensation insurance, length of service awards, pay per-call or per-hour, or similar compensation.

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		15. Is the local cost share for a federal grant to purchase a fire engine eligible under the VFEAT grant program?	No, local cost shares are only eligible for federal grants to purchase firefighting equipment. Firefighting equipment is defined in Rule as "equipment used by a firefighter to contain or extinguish fires and to protect the life of the firefighter, other than fire trucks or vehicles."
		16. Does the fire department have to register as a supplier in Edison if their local government is already registered?	If grant funds will be disbursed to the local government, then the fire department would not need to register as a supplier.
		17. Who should sign the application?	The fire chief or equivalent.
		18. Are fire departments required to submit a roster with their application?	Part C of the application is optional. Fire departments that complete Part C and submit it with their application are eligible for 5 points during the review.
6.5	4	19. Can a rescue squad apply for this grant program?	Only fire departments with valid recognition certificates from the State Fire Marshal's Office pursuant to T.C.A. § 68-102-304 are eligible for this grant program.

3. **Solicitation Amendment Effective Date.** The revisions set forth herein shall be effective upon release. All other terms and conditions of this solicitation not expressly amended herein shall remain in full force and effect.