



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE**

SOLICITATION #33501- 262580

For the Rescue Squads Grant Program

1. INTRODUCTION

The State of Tennessee, Department of Commerce and Insurance, hereinafter referred to as “the State,” has issued this Solicitation with the intent of awarding grant contracts to grantee recipients of the Rescue Squads Grant Program.

1.1. Statement of Purpose

A grant program has been established for the purpose of awarding funds to grantee recipients of the Rescue Squads Grant Program following an appropriation in the budget for FY2026.

2. SCOPE OF SERVICE, CONTRACT PERIOD, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Contracts attached to this Solicitation (Attachment C and D) represent the contract document that the contractor selected by the State must sign. It specifically details the State’s required:

- (A) Scope of Services and Deliverables (Section A);
- (B) Contract Period (Section B);
- (C) Payment Terms (Section C);
- (D) Standard Terms and Conditions (Section D); and
- (E) Special Terms and Conditions (Section E).

3. PROCUREMENT SCHEDULE

The following schedule represents the State’s best estimates for this procurement, however, the State reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to adjust the schedule at any time, or to cancel or reissue a similar application.

EVENT	TIME (CST)	DATE
Solicitation Issued		January 20, 2026
Informational Event (webinar, held by Loren Haynes)	6:00 PM	January 20, 2026
Disability Accommodation Request Deadline	4:00 PM	January 26, 2026
Written “Questions & Comments” Deadline	4:00 PM	January 30, 2026
State Response to Written “Questions & Comments”		February 5, 2026
Application Response Deadline (Grant Application Portal Closes)	2:00 PM	February 20, 2026
Deadline for Corrections		February 27, 2026
State Completion of Technical Response Evaluations		March 20, 2026
Selection Committee		March 24 – March 25, 2026
State Notice of Intent to Award Release and Solicitation Files Opened for Public Inspection	2:00 PM	March 27, 2026
End of Open File Period		April 6, 2026
State sends Grant Contract to Rescue Squads for signature		April 10, 2026
Rescue Squads Signature Deadline	4:00 PM	April 24, 2026

4. GENERAL INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS (and its subsections)

4.1. **Nondiscrimination.** No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the performance of a Contract pursuant to this solicitation or in the employment practices of the Contractor on the grounds of handicap or disability, age, race, color, religion (subject to Tennessee Code Annotated, Sections 4-21-401 and 405), sex, national origin, or any other classification protected by federal, Tennessee state constitutional, or statutory law. The Grantee pursuant to this solicitation shall post in conspicuous places, available to all employees and applicants, notices of nondiscrimination.

4.2. **Communications.** Reference Solicitation #33501- 262580, in all communications relating to this application, and direct any such communications to the following person designated as the Solicitation Coordinator.

Loren Haynes, Director of Grants and Contracts
Department of Commerce and Insurance
500 James Robertson Parkway
Davy Crockett Tower
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
Email: sfmo.grants@tn.gov
Telephone # (615) 806-3725

Unauthorized contact about this solicitation with other employees or officials of the State of Tennessee may result in disqualification from consideration as a grantee.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, potential Grantees may also contact the following as appropriate:

- (A) Staff of the Governor's Office of Diversity Business Enterprise for assistance available to minority-owned, women-owned, and small businesses as well as general, public information relating to this solicitation; and
- (B) The following individual designated by the State to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of the State of Tennessee, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and associated federal regulations:

Maliaka Bass, Deputy General Counsel, General Civil Division
Department of Commerce and Insurance
500 James Robertson Parkway
Davy Crockett Tower
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
Email: maliaka.bass@tn.gov
Phone: (629) 259-1713
Fax: (615) 741-4000

4.3. **Conflict of Interest.** The State shall not consider an offer from, and this solicitation shall not result in a Grant Contract with:

- (A) An individual who is, or within the past six (6) months has been, an employee of the State of Tennessee or who is a volunteer member of a State board or commission that votes for, lets out, overlooks, or any manner superintends the services being procured in this solicitation;

- (B) A company, corporation, or any other contracting entity in which an ownership of two percent (2%) or more is held by an individual who is, or within the past six (6) months has been, an employee of the State of Tennessee (this will not apply either to financial interest that have been placed into a “blind trust” arrangement pursuant to which the employee does not have knowledge of the retention or disposition of such interests or to the ownership of publicly traded stocks or bonds where such ownership constitutes less than two percent (2%) of the total outstanding amount of the stocks or bonds of the issuing entity);
- (C) A company, corporation, or any other contracting entity which employs an individual who is, or within the past six (6) months has been, an employee of the State of Tennessee in a position that would all the direct or indirect use or disclosure of information, which was obtained through or in connection with his or her employment and not made available to the general public, for the purpose of furthering the private interest or personal profit of any person; or,
- (D) Any individual, company, or other entity involved in assisting the State in the development, formulation, or drafting of this solicitation or its scope of services (such person or entity being deemed by the State as having information that would afford an unfair advantage).

For these purposes, the State will deem an individual to be an employee of the State of Tennessee until such time as all compensation for salary, termination pay, and annual leave has been paid.

- 4.4. **Disclosure of Proposal Contents.** All materials submitted to the State in response to this solicitation become the property of the State of Tennessee. Selection for award does not affect this right. Upon completion of evaluations, indicated by the award notification (refer to section 3, above), the full contents and associated documents submitted in response to this solicitation will be open for review by the public. By submitting an application response, a potential Grantee acknowledges and accepts that the full contents and associated documents submitted in response to this solicitation will become open to public inspection.
- 4.5. Before the Grant contract resulting from this solicitation is signed, the apparent successful Grantee must be registered with the Department of Revenue for the collection of Tennessee sales and use tax or exempt from such registration. The State shall not approve a contract unless the Grantee provides proof of such registration. The State shall not approve a contract unless the Grantee provides proof of such registration or proof of exemption. The apparent successful Grantee must further maintain an active Edison Supplier ID and have completed any and all training as required by the Department. The foregoing are mandatory requirements of an award of a contract pursuant to this Solicitation.

5. APPLICATION RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1. When the State opens the Rescue Squads Grant Program, a link to the grant application system will be posted on the State Fire Marshal's Office website at <https://www.tn.gov/commerce/fire-prevention.html>. Any rescue squad wishing to apply will be advised to submit an application to the State. The State will evaluate all applications received in accordance with the criteria specified in the solicitation documentation.
- 5.2. Rescue Squads Grant Program Application (Attachment B) details specific mandatory requirements for an applicant in response to this grant application.

- 5.3. **Application Response Prohibitions.** An applicant must respond only as required by this grant application document.

The State may determine an applicant to be non-responsive and ineligible for grant award if it fails to address all items, organize, and properly reference the Rescue Squads Grant Program Application.

- 5.4. **Application Response Delivery.** No later than the Application Response Deadline (refer to Solicitation #33501- 262580, Section 3, Schedule of Events above), a potential Grantee must deliver to the State ALL documentation required for the Rescue Squads Grant Program Application in response to this Solicitation. It must be submitted through the grant application system linked on the State Fire Marshal's Office website at <https://www.tn.gov/commerce/fire/departments/grant-opportunities>.

- 5.5. **Applicant Prohibitions.** An application in response to this solicitation MUST NOT:

- (A) Include the Applicant's own contract terms and conditions;
- (B) Restrict the rights of the State or otherwise qualify either the offer to deliver services as required by this Solicitation; or
- (C) Include, for consideration in this procurement process or subsequent contract negotiations, incorrect information that the Applicant knew or should have known was materially incorrect.

6. EVALUATION & GRANT AWARD

- 6.1. The evaluation process is designed to award grants to Tennessee rescue squads who meet the mandatory requirements, and who demonstrate the greatest need for grant funds. An evaluation team will evaluate all responses received in accordance with the criteria specified in this DGA.

6.2. Evaluation Process & Maximum Points

All applications received before the deadline will be reviewed to confirm that the applicants meet the basic mandatory requirements (Solicitation #33501- 262580, Technical Evaluation & Response Guide, Attachment A, Section A) for the grant program.

The Technical Evaluation & Response Guide, Attachment A, Section A, includes mandatory requirement items. Mandatory requirement items are those required by the State for the disbursement of funds.

If the Solicitation Coordinator determines that an application fails to meet one or more of the mandatory requirements, the evaluation team will review the response and document the team's determination of whether:

- a. The response adequately meets the application requirements for further evaluation;
- b. The State will request clarifications or corrections for consideration prior to further evaluation; or
- c. The State will determine the response to be non-responsive to the application and reject it.

All eligible applications will then be evaluated using the established scoring criteria (Solicitation #33501- 262580, Technical Evaluation & Response Guide, Attachment A, Section B). The Technical Evaluation & Response Guide, Attachment A, Section B, includes additional items. Additional items are those which will demonstrate an applicant's need for award funding. Such items are not mandatory for consideration.

Each eligible application will be evaluated and reviewed by three (3) state employees who were not involved in the grant criteria creation, rubric testing, or any other aspect of the grant stipulations. Points will be awarded for each additional item that is included within an application. The maximum point total is seventy-five (75) points. Applications will be ranked by their total combined score and will be presented to the selection committee.

6.3. Grant Award Process

The selection committee will be comprised of seven (7) members: six (6) representatives from the Tennessee Rescue Squads Association and the Assistant Commissioner of Fire Prevention. The representatives from the association shall be from the three (3) grand divisions of the state.

The committee will review the recommended applications and decide how funds will be dispersed by majority vote. If there are remaining funds available, then funding will be assigned to the remaining eligible applicants with the highest combined score. This process will continue until all available funds have been assigned.

The State will issue a Notice of Intent to Award identifying the apparent Grantees.

NOTICE: The Notice of Intent to Award shall not create rights, interests, or claims of entitlement in either the apparent Grantee or any other Respondent. State obligations pursuant to a grant award shall commence only after the Grant Contract is signed by the State agency head and the Grantee and after the Grant Contract is approved by all other state officials as required by applicable laws and regulations.

The Grantees identified as Grant Awardees must sign a contract drawn by the State pursuant to this grant application. The Grant Contract shall be substantially the same as Attachments C and D, *GR and GG Contracts*. The Grantee must sign the contract by the Grantee Signature Deadline detailed in the Solicitation #33501-262580, Section 3, Schedule of Events above.

- 6.4. **Next Ranked Applicant.** If the Grantee fails to provide the signed Grant Contract and the supporting documentation as provided above by the Grantee Signature Deadline, the State may determine that the Respondent is non-responsive to this grant application and reject the application response.

Next Ranked Applicant. The State reserves the right to award the Grant Contract to the alternate Grantee should a Grantee fail to submit the required supporting documentation by the Grantee Signature Deadline detailed in Solicitation #33501-262580, Section 3, Schedule of Events above.

7. GRANT PAYMENT

- 7.1. The State shall not be liable for payment of any type associated with the Grant Contract resulting from this application process (or any amendment thereof) or responsible for any goods or services purchased by the Grantee, even goods or services purchased in good faith even if the Grantee is orally directed to proceed with the purchase of goods or services, if it occurs before the Grant Contract Effective Date or after the Grant Contract Term.
- 7.2. All payments relating to this procurement will be made in accordance with the Payment Terms and Conditions of the Grant Contract resulting from this grant application process (refer to Solicitation #33501-262580, Attachment C and D, *GR and GG Contracts*, Section C).

TECHNICAL RESPONSE & EVALUATION GUIDE

SECTION A: MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS. Applicant must address all items detailed below and provide the information and documentation as required.

Section A – Mandatory Requirement Items	Pass/Fail
Active Charter as registered with the Secretary of State	
Recognized by a local government in Tennessee to provide rescue services	
Obtain an Edison Supplier ID and provide a current, completed W-9 Form	
Complete application to be received by the Department of Commerce & Insurance by date and time specified	
Complete Rescue Squad Active Roster Submitted	

SECTION B: ADDITIONAL ITEMS. Additional consideration will be given to applicants that satisfy the items detailed below.

Section B – Additional Items	Point Value
<i>County Economic Status pursuant to Ability to Pay designated by the University of Tennessee as of July 2025*</i>	
Ability to Pay 1-29	15
Ability to Pay 30-59	12
Ability to Pay 60-89	5
Ability to Pay 90-100	2
Current PPE ten (10) or more years old	15
<i>Number of Category 1 Type Incidents reported to TARS or TFIRS in the past three (3) Years:</i>	
1-100	1
101-500	2
501-750	3
751-1000	4
Greater than 1000	5
Works Mutual Aid with First Responder Agencies	5
Provides Rescue Services 100% within Tennessee	5
<i>Applicant Award History</i>	
If previously awarded, has not received \$30,000 or more in funding through this program in any one (1) of the previous three (3) calendar years	5
Has not previously received any funding through this program	10
<i>Number of rescue services type(s) provided as outlined by the type(s) of rescue services in the application</i>	
1-4	5
Greater than 4	10
<i>Membership Composition</i>	
51%-75% Volunteer	5
76%-100% Volunteer	10
TOTAL	75

*Found at Tennessee Ability to Pay Index and Indicators of Economic Health Community Economic Development

RESCUE SQUADS GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Application Instructions:

The Applicant must address all items detailed below and provide, in sequence, the information and documentation as required (referenced with the associated item references).

In addition to the items below, the State will review each offer for compliance with all solicitation requirements, including but not limited to:

- (A) The Grant Application must be submitted to the State no later than the specified deadline;
- (B) The Grant Application must be submitted as required; and
- (C) The Grant Application response must NOT contain any qualification, limitation, or other restrictions.

See the Rescue Squads Grant Program Application below.



Rescue Squads Grant Program Application

Application – Checklist

The Rescue Squads Grant Program establishes a fund for Tennessee rescue squads to utilize for necessary equipment. The funds can be used for local purchases of rescue services equipment. For additional information regarding the program, please refer to the rules at <https://www.tn.gov/commerce/fire/departments/grant-opportunities.html>.

If you have any questions related to this application, please contact sfmo.grants@tn.gov

All applications must be complete and received by the SFMO by February 20, 2026, at 2:00 PM (Central).

Completing this checklist will help you prepare your Rescue Squads Grant Program application. Prior to turning in your application, ensure that you've completed or meet the following:

Verify Eligibility	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Verify active Charter registration with the Secretary of State's Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	Confirm on the Application that the Rescue Squad is recognized by local government in Tennessee to provide rescue services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Verify that rescue squad has obtained Edison Supplier ID and provided current, completed W-9
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete form "Application – Roster" (page 5 of this document)
Application	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete form "Application – Grant Information" (pages 2-3 of this document)

Rescue Squad Name: _____

Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN): _____

Application – Grant Information

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Solicitation Name: Rescue Squad Grant Program

Brief Description: In 2022, Governor Bill Lee and the General Assembly approved the funding of this program for the purchase of lifesaving equipment by Tennessee rescue squads. The Program provides for five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00) to be disbursed to applicant rescue squads across the three (3) Grand Divisions.

Program Purpose: The Rescue Squads Grant Program establishes a five million dollar (\$5,000,000.00) fund for rescue squads for equipment to better protect first responders and the communities they serve.

Released On: January 20, 2026

Completed Application Due By: February 20, 2026

I attest that this application was created and written by a human and that this application has the capacity to fulfill and/or provide the project described in this application.

CRITERIA LIST

- Verified active Charter registration with the Secretary of State’s office
- Confirmed that rescue squad is recognized by local government in Tennessee to provide rescue services
- Verified that rescue squad has obtained Edison Supplier ID or provided completed W-9 Form

RESCUE SQUAD STATISTICS

Did your rescue squad receive funds from the Rescue Squad Grant Program last year?

Did your rescue squad apply for the Volunteer Firefighter Training and Equipment Grant Program this year?

Number of Category 1 Type Missions/Incidents reported to TARS or TFIRS in the past three (3) years:

Last Year _____
Year Prior _____
Two Years Prior _____

Expenditures Reported in the last three (3) years

Last Year _____
Year Prior _____
Two Years Prior _____

Does your rescue squad work mutual aid with all first responder agencies within the county?

- Yes
- No

Does your rescue squad provide rescue services one hundred percent (100%) within Tennessee?

- Yes
- No

Please check the type(s) of rescue services provided by your rescue squad

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EMS | <input type="checkbox"/> SAR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extrication | <input type="checkbox"/> Rope Rescue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Recovery | <input type="checkbox"/> Swift Water Rescue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trench Rescue | <input type="checkbox"/> Structural Collapse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cave | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Machinery/Grain Bin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

Has your rescue squad suffered an uninsured loss in the last twelve (12) months? If so, please explain:

- No
- Yes:

How many stations does your rescue squad have?

- One (1)
- Multiple: _____

APPLICATION

What items are you requesting in this application? How will this grant funding assist your department in improving firefighter/rescue squad safety and protecting lives and property in your jurisdiction?

NOTE: This narrative will be redacted of any information that can identify your Volunteer Fire Department/Rescue Squad prior to presentation to the Selection Committee.

BUDGET

Application Request Amount

How much total funding are you requesting?

ATTENTION

W-9 Attachment

I certify that I have attached all required/requested documents listed above.

Organizational Contacts

Assign Authorized Official: _____

By signing above, I affirm that the information contained herein is accurate, and I understand that by making a false statement in this application, I am subject to the penalties of perjury pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-16-702(a)(4).

Application – Grant Information (Equipment Inventory and Request Details)

All items requested must meet the most current applicable standard. Applicants may attach additional sheets with more information for items that require description.

Item Description	Number of Items in Current Inventory	Number of Items Requested for Replacement	Avg Age of Items to be Replaced (in years)	Number of New Items Requested	Total Number of Items Requested (Replacement + New)	Item Price (per unit)	Total Cost
PPE							
Coats						\$665.00	
Pants						\$555.00	
Gloves						\$80.00	
Helmets						\$450.00	
Boots						\$385.00	
Lifejackets (General Use)						\$60.00	
Life Jackets (Swiftwater)						\$225.00	
Rain Suit						\$95.00	
Ballistic Vest						\$1,200.00	
Gear Bags						\$120.00	
PPE Washer/Dryer						\$25,075.00	
ROPE							
Hardware Connectors/ Carabiners						\$30.00	
Hardware Descenders						\$360.00	
Hardware Descenders with Progress Capture Pulley						\$790.00	
Hardware Ascenders, includes rope clamps						\$120.00	
Hardware Rigging Plate						\$35.00	

Hardware Pulleys						\$105.00	
Software – Rope (Sold by the foot) 7/16”						\$1.25 per foot	
Software – Prusiks (commercially sewn)						\$25.00	
Software – Straps (Anchor Straps, 10’)						\$65.00	
Software – Webbing (Sold by the foot)						\$1.25 per foot	
Artificial High Directional						\$5,350.00	
Rope Bags						\$80.00	
Rope Equipment Packs						\$265.00	
Equipment Litter						\$2,700.00	
Equipment Litter Wheel						\$1,860.00	
Equipment Fall Arrest Device with Absorber & Connector						\$450.00	
Work Position Lanyard						\$310.00	
Class II Harness (Seat Harness)						\$500.00	
Class III Harness (Full- body harness)						\$550.00	
Mechanical Advantage Kit (pre- assembled)						\$500.00	
MEDICAL							
Medical Equipment Bag						\$540.00	
AED						\$2,000.00	
Vacuum Spine Board						\$1,300.00	
WATER							
Wet Suits						\$289.00	

Dry Suits (Including Base Layer) (Swiftwater)						\$1,395.00	
Dry Suits (Including Base Layer) (Dive)						\$1,600.00	
Buoyancy Control Device						\$1,000.00	
Aqua Eye Pro						\$15,500.00	
Mask						\$1,000.00	
Fins						\$250.00	
Comms System						\$2,000.00	
Water Helmets						\$198.00	
Weights						\$75.00	
Boots						\$85.00	
Throw Bags						\$90.00	
Whistles						\$9.00	
Raft/Inflatables						\$3,950.00	
Paddles						\$210.00	
Gear Bags						\$120.00	
Lights/Strobes						\$48.00	
EXTRICATION TOOLS							
Spreader						\$20,300.00	
Cutter						\$15,315.00	
Ram						\$11,755.00	
Combi Tools						\$16,150.00	

Vehicle Strut Kits						\$12,000.00	
Trench Shoring Kit (Mechanical)						\$26,000.00	
Air/ Lift Bag Kit						\$11,500.00	
Cribbing (Set)						\$5,500.00	
Window Punch						\$17.00	
Electric Windshield Saw/Cutter						\$385.00	
DRONES							
Drone Plane						\$4,500.00	
Drone Kit						\$10,000.00	
COMMS							
Radio						\$2,000.00	
Pager						\$800.00	
GRAIN RESCUE EQUIPMENT / FARM							
Grain Auger						\$1,200.00	
Turtle Tubes						\$600.00	
Coffer Dam (GSI Tube, Great Wall, Etc.)						\$3,900.00	
HAND TOOLS (GENERAL)							
Axe						\$85.00	
Pike Pole						\$165.00	
Halgan						\$410.00	
Drill						\$250.00	
Sawzall						\$250.00	
Leaf Blower						\$450.00	

Four Gas Monitor						\$1,500.00		
EV Disconnect Plug						\$1,150.00		
Thermal Imaging Camera						\$4,785.00		
FLASHLIGHTS								
Handheld – Stream light E-Flood Litebox 45811						\$450.00		
Headlamp						\$100.00		
OTHER								
Other:								
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED							\$	

By signing below, I affirm that the information contained herein is accurate, and I understand that by making a false statement in this application, I am subject to the penalties of perjury pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-16-702(a)(4).

Chief Signature: _____ Date: _____

