



Volunteer Fire Departments: Challenges & Opportunities Q & A

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Quick Facts

- 752 Fire Departments
 - 633 Volunteer
 - 76 Combination
 - 43 Career
- Approximately 13,200 Volunteer FFs
- Approximately 3,300 Career FFs

Incident Types Reported – 2015

All Fire Departments

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Fires	16,906	10.85
EMS/Rescue	100,790	64.70
All Others	38,088	24.45

Total Incidents: 155,784

County VFD Funding Comparison

FY 2000

Local Funds Spent
\$11,116,923.89

State Rebate Funds
\$6,377,816.62
State's share – 57%

FY 2015

Local Funds Spent
\$26,246,835.88

State Rebate Funds
\$7,856,671.27
State's Share – 29.93%

Escalating Costs = MAJOR Issue

- In 1998 we could equip a firefighter with complete personal protective gear from head to toe for \$1,320.00
- Today, it cost \$8,175.00 to equip that same firefighter
- This represents a 519% increase in just under 20 years

RFTAAP – How it works

- The Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance Program (RFTAAP) was created by House Bill 255 in 1995
- Provided matching funds up to \$50,000.00 toward the purchase of a rural fire truck
- Authorized funding of \$8.2 million over the first two years
- Typical rural trucks at this time were averaging \$104,000.00

RFTAAP (cont.)

- Amended in 2004 to increase funding to \$70,000.00 (Rounds 7 – current)
- In 2005 House Bill 635 created the Supplemental round which allowed for an additional match of \$70,000.00 per county
- Counties must have exhausted all available Rounds to apply for the Supplemental
- Supplemental expanded by MID to provide 5% match not to exceed \$20,000.00 toward non-state grants for trucks

RFTAAP Numbers

- RFTAAP
 - 691 Trucks purchased
 - State share - \$38,757,731.02
 - Local share - \$112,437,562.00



SRFTAAP – A Numbers

- SRFTAAP – A
 - 61 Trucks purchased
 - State share - \$3,939,619.50
 - Local share - \$12,016,486.00

SRFTAAP – B Numbers

- SRFTAAP – B
 - 80 Trucks purchased
 - State share - \$857,816.17
 - Outside share - \$18,241,406.32

Outside funds typically come from the
FEMA Assistance to Firefighter's Grant
Program

RFTAAP Totals

- Combined totals for all three programs since 1995
 - 832 trucks purchased
 - State share - \$43,555,166.69
 - Local share – \$124,454,048.00
 - Outside share - \$18,241,406.32

Benefits of RFTAAP

- Led to lower PPCs in approximately 70% of our rural fire districts
- Provided fire protection in areas where it didn't exist
- Conservatively estimated to have saved MS homeowners over \$50 million/year in premium costs
- Eliminated antiquated and dangerous equipment

RFTAAP Concerns

- No additional Rounds since 2011 legislative session
- Four years of no additional funding from legislature
- No permanent funding mechanism
- Counties unable to purchase new trucks without state assistance
- Cost of trucks increasing at much faster rate than program can sustain

QUESTIONS?



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