

Project Description:
Communication Equipment;

The Cedar Mountain Volunteer Fire Rescue department is an all-volunteer fire department serving the residents of the Cedar Mountain fire district. The Cedar Mountain fire/rescue district is located in southeastern Transylvania County of North Carolina that crosses into Greenville County, South Carolina and represents about 1/3 of our total district. This district follows the crest of the Blue Ridge forming parts of the Tennessee Valley Divide and the Eastern Continental Divide. Transylvania County has an elevation drop of almost 5,000 feet from the highest to lowest point, within our fire district, includes both sides of the state line of North and South Carolina. This terrain has given Transylvania County about 500 sizeable waterfalls and countless smaller ones, probably more than any other county in the U.S. Because of these beautiful waterfalls and our mountain trails, we are the home to many visitors and tourist. Within our district is located Cesar's Head, a South Carolina State Park, consisting of over 10,000 acres with an annual visitation of over 300,000 annual visitors with 50 miles of hiking trails. Dupont Forest, North Carolina State Forest is included within our fire/rescue district, consisting of 10,268 acres with 116,000 visitors and 75.85 miles of roads and trails. We offer mutual aid to eight other departments within Transylvania County, NC. We also provide mutual aid to two departments in Henderson County, NC and one fire department in South Carolina. The eight departments within Transylvania County include in their districts Pisgah National Forest and Gorges State Park, North Carolina, and parts of the Blue Ridge Parkway. One of the departments in Henderson County includes the Green River Preserve in their district. The River Falls Fire Dept. in South Carolina includes Jones Gap State Park. Even though our resident population numbers are low, we have the responsibility for the emergency needs of many.

After conducting a community needs assessment for the Cedar Mountain fire district, we have determined that effective communications are essential to maintaining the safety of responders and supplying a first line of defense for our citizens and their property in this mountainous terrain of forest.

Cost/Benefit:

The protection of the health and safety of the public and our firefighting personnel with respect to fire and rescue is of main concern. Two years ago, our county office of communications upgraded its communication equipment to state of the art. This upgrade included split frequencies and tactical frequencies capability that our current communication cannot benefit due to our outdated equipment. Communication with South Carolina and law enforcement is impossible with our current equipment. To solve interoperability and compatibility issues the department must replace all of our radio system to ensure effective operations. The upgrade cost of equipment to meet the needs will be \$44,558.00. Purchase of this equipment has superb interoperability due to its potential use throughout a two state response area. Currently our officers have six hand held radios capable of using some of these tactical frequencies, but lack the capabilities of communicating with Greenville County SC on their UHF frequency. Some of our members have Motorola GP 300's which are thirteen plus years old and in need of repair or replacement while others have none. The GP 300's are being condemned due to lack of parts available. We need to have fifteen new Kenwood Tk 2140's for our officers and EMT's and five Kenwood Tk 2140's for our trucks then we will pass down the six officers radios to our other EMT's and other Firefighters. Five Mobil Kenwood Tk 790's radios must be added to our fire trucks and one Kenwood Tk 890 upgrade for our rescue truck. To complete our communication equipment a Kenwood Tk 780 and Tk 880 Base radio are necessary. Due to our mountainous terrain and communications with Greenville, South Carolina, Henderson County NC and areas of Transylvania NC our needs requires two Kenwood TR 750k VHF Repeaters. One of these repeaters will be mobile and the other fixed atop Cesar's Head Mountain in South Carolina. Antennas and wiring for repeaters and base radios is also a factor. Fifteen of our members need Motorola Minitor V pagers. Two Gang

Charges are required for the Tk 2140 hand held radios.

Project Description:
Personal Protective Equipment;

This year we have added five new firefighters to our department and do not have the appropriate NFPA Personal Protective Gear that meets OSHA standards. With the help from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program last year, we were able to purchase twenty-four sets of structural turnout gear, bring our department, for the first time, in line with NFPA/OSHA requirements. With the addition of these five new firefighters, we cannot afford to purchase the necessary protective gear to meet these NFPA/OSHA requirements. This additional PPE equipment will help us reach our goal to equipment 100% of our active firefighting staff.

To maintain the newly purchased protective gear from last years Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, in accordance with the required manufacturers recommendations and NFPA standards, along with protecting our firefighters safety and health by keeping their personal protective gear free of contamination from hazardous materials it is necessary that we purchase a large capacity washing machine and dryer that has the capability of cleaning this gear.

Cost/Benefit:

We need to purchase five additional sets of structural firefighting protective gear, consisting of five of coats, pants, helmets, and boots. The cost of this equipment will be \$8205.00. The protection of our firefighters is of up most concern.

Keeping our personal protective gear up to standards for the safety of our firefighters and prolong the life of this valuable equipment is essential.

Our closest coin laundry is 14 miles away. This will require one of our firefighters to collect the gear, drive a round trip of 28 miles, wash and dry it, and return it. This unconstructive system leaves our firefighters without personal protective gear until this job is accomplished. Our individual members are responsible for their turn out gear, they carry it in their personal owned vehicles, and to have them leave it at the station for some one to pick up and clean it, then return it to the station for their pick up is an unacceptable solution. The cost of one large capacities type washer and dryer, freight, and installation will be \$ 7942.00.

Financial Need:

Due to the erosion of our property tax base, over the past two years, because of closing of the AGFA x-ray film-producing plant. AGFA has closed its operation as of December 31, 2002 and this closing has caused a loss of property tax revenue that will equate to 71% of our \$171,520.00 annual budget of 2003. With now, only \$50,000.00 in property tax funding authorized by our County Commissioners, you can easily see that a purchase of this size with out the help from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program would be impossible. We have applied for and received other state and federal grants for rescue equipment, fire-fighting equipment, building improvements, personal protective gear and medical supplies. You can easily see that our tax base covers operation costs and equipment needs must come from grants and fund raising programs. Because our county has also seen our final two largest plants closed with in the last year, we are finding it very difficult to hold fund-raising events that will even cover the cost. Our county has been hard hit as these plants were our three largest employers and now our six largest employers are the Transylvania Community Hospital, The Board of Education, and Transylvania County government, Transylvania Vocational Services, M.B. Industries, and the local Wal-Mart store. Our unemployment rate as of January 1,2004 is 11.1 % while the state unemployment rate is approximately 6%.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration in evaluating the above proposals. This is the only program that will allow a small rural fire department to function in a safe and responsible matter.