

2003 ops/Safety
Radio Equipment

 Narrative Statement

Application number is 10796

Project Description

Please provide your narrative statement in the space provided below:

The purpose of this grant application is to provide Morrisville Fire & Rescue Department funds to acquire the necessary radio system equipment to support a new, integrated emergency communications system in Wake County. This grant application is part of a coordinated countywide, regional effort involving fire, EMS/rescue and law enforcement agencies throughout Wake County.

The grant funds will provide the Morrisville Fire & Rescue Department the following equipment: Mobile Radios - 13 radios at a cost of \$64,207; Portable Radios ? 22 radios at a cost of \$85,910; Other Equipment ? 9 mobile remote heads; 22 portable batteries; 3 base stations; and 9 headsets for a cost of \$23,821. The total budget requested is \$173,738.

This equipment will allow Morrisville Fire and Rescue Department to make full use of the capabilities of the new trunked 800 MHz radio system in Wake County. Furthermore, this requested equipment will:

- ? Make emergency communications system interoperability among all public safety agencies a reality in Wake County,
- ? Provide a radio communications system with the capabilities necessary to meet the needs of Morrisville Fire & Rescue Department and all other public safety agencies in the Wake County and region,
- ? Be available to Morrisville Fire & Rescue Department and all other public safety agencies on a daily basis as well as during emergency situations responding to all types of emergencies.

Morrisville Fire & Rescue Department provides emergency services for a 29 square mile district that is located in the southwest corner of Wake County, North Carolina. Our placement in the county provides us with a very diverse and challenging response district that includes rural and urban areas in multiple counties and jurisdictions.

With three stations that are placed, staffed and equipped to provide the best responses to over 800 calls annually. Our population of 11,000 swells to over 22,000 during the day. This growth is the direct result of our diverse district, which includes high-density housing, large commercial and industrial complexes. Included in these complexes is the renowned Research Triangle Park of North Carolina. The home of many multi-national research and development facilities.

Also, due to our geographic location within the county we provide automatic mutual aid through intergovernmental arrangements in three counties. This agreement includes three municipal fire departments, three volunteer fire departments and crash fire rescue at the international regional airport.

This grant will greatly enhance our inoperability with our surrounding counties and other agencies, which we respond with during emergency operations.

The State of North Carolina is experiencing a severe budget short fall in the current 2002/03 fiscal year with a greater shortfall foreseen for 2003/04. Major factors contributing to these shortfalls include the state recovering from two major hurricanes a severe ice storm and a devastating economic recession we are encountering.

The result of the State?s budget shortfall has eliminated the state shared revenue with local government. The lose of state shared revenue cannot be offset by the Town property taxes. Due to the economic recession, the Town?s projected revenue from property taxes has also decreased by \$1.3 million for FY 2002/03. This decreased revenue has forced an 11% decrease in the fire department funds for FY 2003/04, allowing for minimal additional funding except for critical needs.

If you received a grant award in the 2002 process, does your current request relate to your 2002 award? No

If you answered yes, above, which of the following apply?