

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC
SAFETY AND SECURITY

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY
Amendment #1

(changes highlighted)

FY25 FIREFIGHTER SAFETY EQUIPMENT
GRANT PROGRAM
ROUND 2



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FY 2025 FIREFIGHTER SAFETY EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM – ROUND 2

I. OVERVIEW

The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) and the Department of Fire Services (DFS) are pleased to announce the availability of grant funding in State Fiscal Year 2025 for fire departments in every city, town, fire district, and eligible state authority fire departments of the Commonwealth for the purchase of firefighter safety equipment. The anticipated amount of funding available is approximately \$1.6 million.

Funds for this program will be awarded on a competitive basis. Details on the scoring rubric and award decision process can be found in Section III.

An application period webinar will be offered. Eligible fire departments that did not attend the webinar during the previous FY25 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant application period **MUST** attend one of the sessions during this application period to be eligible for award. Eligible fire departments that attended the webinar during the application period for the earlier FY25 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant are encouraged but not required to attend again. Please see Section XI for more information.

A detailed list of eligible program expenses can be found in Section XV. Funds cannot be utilized for maintenance, lease, personnel costs, or consumable supplies. Vehicles are not allowable.

This grant is a reimbursement-based program. Grant recipients will purchase, receive, and pay for all equipment, then submit documentation to DFS in the form of a reimbursement request in order to receive funding.

II. ELIGIBILITY

Fire departments of every city, town, fire district, and authority of the Commonwealth are eligible to apply for funds. Each fire department may apply for an amount of funding up to the maximum amounts shown below based on the size of the population that they serve:

Population Served	Maximum Award Amount
0-2,499	\$5,250.00
2,500-4,999	\$6,250.00
5,000-9,999	\$7,750.00
10,000-29,999	\$9,500.00
30,000-49,999	\$12,500.00
50,000-99,999	\$17,500.00
100,000+	\$25,000.00

Maximum award amounts are based upon 2020 Census data.

Departments may combine eligible award amounts and submit regional applications either on their own or through regional planning agencies. On all regional applications, the Primary Applicant will serve as the grant administrator, responsible for signing the contract, submitting reimbursement requests, and ensuring compliance with all grant terms and conditions.

Each eligible fire department may submit or be named on one (1) single-department or regional application. Submitting or being named on more than one application may result in disqualification of all applications.

III. APPLICATION SCORING AND AWARD DECISION PROCESS

The goal of the program is to enhance firefighter safety by providing fire departments with the necessary personal protective and safety equipment to comply with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards. To achieve this goal, each application line item will be scored according to the chart on the following page.

Applicants shall answer the questions posed on the Budget Worksheet that align with the scoring chart on the following page for each type of equipment they are requesting to purchase using the dropdown menus in the Budget Worksheet. If the same type of equipment is being purchased for multiple reasons (i.e. two thermal imagers, one of which is to replace a damaged unit deployed on an engine and another which will be used to equip a newly purchased command vehicle), it must be entered on separate line items. Only line items for which each field in the Budget Worksheet has been completed will be scored and considered for award.

Each application will receive a final score which weighs the individual score of each line item proportionally relative to the total value of the application. For example:

- A department that requests \$5,000 of equipment scoring “10” and \$5,000 of equipment scoring “6” will receive a final score of “8.0.”
- A department that requests \$9,000 of equipment scoring “10” and \$1,000 of equipment scoring “6” will receive a final score of “9.6.”
- A department that requests \$6,000 of equipment scoring “8” and \$4,000 of equipment scoring “6” will receive a final score of “7.2.”

DFS will make award decisions that prioritize the available funding for applications scoring 9.5 or higher. Applications scoring less than 9.5 may be awarded at amounts that are significantly less than the amount requested.

The full Allowable Equipment List with designated Equipment Priority Levels can be found in Section XV.

All awards are contingent upon the availability of funding. All funding is subject to appropriation.

SCORING TABLE

Station Equipment

Question 1	Answer 1	Question 2	Answer 2	Equipment Priority		
				High	Medium	Low
Is this a replacement for an existing unit(s) of equipment that the department currently owns?	Yes	What is the condition of the equipment being replaced/reason that replacement is needed?	Equipment has been taken out of service due to failure or safety concerns.	10	8	6
			Equipment is currently in service but has been experiencing reliability issues or required significant repairs.	9	7	5
			Equipment is currently in service but is at or approaching the end of its expected usable lifespan.	8	6	4
			Equipment is currently in service but non-compliant with a relevant NFPA or OSHA standard.	7	5	3
			Equipment is currently in service but lacks the functionality of currently available models.	6	4	2
			Equipment is currently in service but inconsistent with other similar equipment used in the department.	5	3	1
	No	What is the reason that this purchase is necessary?	The department does not currently own any of this item.	10	8	6
			The department currently owns one (1) or more of these items but does not have the item available at every station.	8	6	4
			The department currently has at least one (1) of these items at every station but requires more to satisfy service demands.	6	4	2

Apparatus Equipment

Question 1	Answer 1	Question 2	Answer 2	Equipment Priority		
				High	Medium	Low
Is this a replacement for an existing unit(s) of equipment that the department currently owns?	Yes	What is the condition of the equipment being replaced/reason that replacement is needed?	Equipment has been taken out of service due to failure or safety concerns.	10	8	6
			Equipment is currently in service but has been experiencing reliability issues or required significant repairs.	9	7	5
			Equipment is currently in service but is at or approaching the end of its expected usable lifespan.	8	6	4
			Equipment is currently in service but non-compliant with a relevant NFPA or OSHA standard.	7	5	3
			Equipment is currently in service but lacks the functionality of currently available models.	6	4	2
			Equipment is currently in service but inconsistent with other similar equipment used in the department.	5	3	1
	No	What is the reason that this purchase is necessary?	The department does not currently own any of this item.	10	8	6
			The department currently owns one (1) or more of these items but does not have the item available on every apparatus/vehicle.	8	6	4
			The department currently has at least one (1) of these items on each apparatus but requires more to satisfy service demands.	6	4	2

Personal Equipment

Question 1	Answer 1	Question 2	Answer 2	Equipment Priority		
				High	Medium	Low
Is this a replacement for equipment that is currently assigned to an existing firefighter who was hired more than a year ago?	Yes	What is the condition of the equipment being replaced/reason that replacement is needed?	The equipment has exceeded the NFPA standard 10-year service timeline (or will do so by June 30, 2025) and is the only unit of this equipment type assigned to the individual.	10	8	6
			The equipment has been taken out of service due to damage or wear which have left it in unusable condition and is the only unit of this equipment type assigned to the individual.	10	8	6
			The equipment is currently in service but non-compliant with a relevant industry standard and is the only unit of this equipment type assigned to the individual.	8	6	4
			The equipment has exceeded the NFPA standard 10-year service timeline (or will do so by June 30, 2025) and is one of two (2) or more units of this equipment type assigned to the individual.	7	5	3
			The equipment has taken out of service due to damage or wear which have left it in unusable condition and is one of two (2) or more units of this equipment type assigned to the individual.	7	5	3
			The equipment is currently in service but non-compliant with a relevant industry standard and is one of two (2) or more units of this equipment type assigned to the individual.	6	4	2
	No	What is the reason that this purchase is necessary?	The equipment is being purchased for an individual who was hired within the last year or an expected hire and will serve as the first/only unit of this equipment type assigned to the individual.	9	7	5
			The equipment is being purchased for an individual who was hired within the last year or an expected hire and will serve as the second unit of this equipment type assigned to the individual.	6	4	2

IV. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

By submitting an application for this program, the applicant agrees to comply with the following:

1. ~~The receipt of grant funds is contingent upon the grantee being able to certify that it will comply with the Massachusetts General Laws, including G.L. c. 40A, § 3A, the MBTA Communities Act. Compliance with the MBTA Communities Act is determined by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities.~~
2. The department must be in compliance with the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) for calendar year 2023 by 5:00 PM on February 27, 2025 (the application submission deadline). Departments that are not compliant with MFIRS as of that time will not be awarded funding.
3. Purchases made with Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program funds become the property of the city, town, authority, fire district, or state authority fire department they are purchased by.
4. All equipment purchased with Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program funds that has a unit value of \$1,000 or greater must be entered into an inventory.
5. Equipment must be purchased and installed in accordance with applicable codes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts including fire, building, electrical, and health code requirements.
6. Grantees must submit a Final Grant Report to DFS detailing the equipment that was purchased, how it was deployed within the fire department, and the benefit(s) realized through the funding before a reimbursement payment will be processed. The final deadline for submission of these reports is July 25, 2025. The required reporting form is available [here](#). Grantees may submit this report multiple times if multiple reimbursement payments are sought.
7. Every city, town, fire district, or state authority fire department must adhere to the provisions set forth in M.G.L. Chapter 30B (municipalities) or the Uniform Procurement Act, 815 CMR 2.00, which incorporates the procurement requirements of 801 CMR 21.00 (state authorities), as well as the procurement policies and procedures of the local unit of government.

V. LIMITATIONS ON THE USE OF PROGRAM FUNDS

1. No personnel, construction, or maintenance costs can be paid with funds from this program. Equipment installation, setup, and shipping costs are allowable.
2. Lease programs are not permitted under this grant. All expenses must be physical assets that the grant recipient is taking ownership of. Recurring service or subscription fees are not allowable.
3. Purchases of vehicles are not allowable. Trailers used to transport allowable equipment are considered vehicles and are not allowable.
4. Consumable supplies are not allowable. Medical supplies such as tourniquets, gauze, bandages, chest seals, and airway devices are considered consumable and are not eligible for purchase through this program.

VI. FORMS TO BE COMPLETED UPON GRANT AWARD:

The grant award period will not begin until both the recipient AND DFS execute a formal grant agreement contract. Upon notification of a grant award, all grantees will be required to complete and sign the Commonwealth Standard Contract Form, Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing Form (if not already on file at DFS), and a Grant Agreement Scope of Work and Budget. These documents will be provided to departments upon award and do not need to be submitted with the grant application.

VII. GRANT PERFORMANCE PERIOD

The grant performance period for this program will begin upon execution of a contract between DFS and the grant recipient, and terminate on June 30, 2025. Each grant recipient will receive a Notice to Proceed via email, which will include notification of the grant performance period and a copy of the fully executed grant agreement contract.

Approved expenditures may not be made until a contract has been executed between DFS and the grant recipient. Expenses incurred prior to execution of a contract **will not** be eligible for reimbursement through this program.

The execution of a contract for an FY25 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant award that was made through the application period that ended on October 17, 2024 does not nullify this requirement. Grant recipients must execute a new contract with DFS for any awards made through this application process prior to incurring any associated expenses.

Grant recipients must accept delivery of equipment no later than June 30, 2025. Equipment delivered to the recipient after that date **will not** be eligible for reimbursement through this program.

VIII. GRANT PERFORMANCE PERIOD EXTENSIONS

Performance period extensions will not be authorized in FY25. Applicants are responsible to conduct market research and verify that the equipment requested on their application can be delivered before June 30, 2025. DFS will not provide reimbursement for any equipment delivered after June 30, 2025.

IX. DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT FUNDS

The Department of Fire Services agrees to disburse funds on a cost reimbursement basis only after goods have been received and the vendors have been paid. All costs requested for reimbursement must be listed on the DFS Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Final Report/Financial Summary form. Appropriate supporting documentation must also be attached, including:

1. Copy of invoice
2. Proof of payment – cancelled check or similar other proof of payment documentation such as a copy of the City/Town warrant or invoice that is marked paid and signed as paid by the City/Town fiscal officer or signed as paid by the City/Town fiscal officer.

Reimbursement requests may be submitted as soon as the goods have been received and paid for, but no later than July 25, 2025.

The Department of Fire Services cannot disburse grant funds for any expenses incurred outside the contract period. Documentation of all expenses is required and subject to audit.

X. PROJECTED TIMELINE

Milestone	Date
Application Period Open	February 14, 2025
Application Submission Deadline	February 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
Award Announcements	Week of April 7, 2025 (estimated)
End of Grant Performance Period	June 30, 2025
Final Reports/Reimbursement Requests Due	July 25, 2025

XI. MANDATORY APPLICATION PERIOD WEBINAR

A webinar will be held on Microsoft Teams at the schedule below during the application period. This program will cover all relevant grant requirements from application to closeout, including how to apply, signing the contract documents, purchasing equipment in compliance with grant terms and conditions, and submitting reimbursement requests/final reports.

Either the Fire Chief or designated Grant Manager for eligible fire departments that did not attend any of the webinars held during the first application period for the FY25 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant must attend this program in its entirety to be eligible for an award. This shall entail attendance throughout the entire session and completion of the quiz question at the end. Departments that do not complete the program will not be eligible to receive an award.

Eligible fire departments that attended any of the webinars held during the first application period for the FY25 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant do not need to attend again to be eligible for this grant opportunity.

Completion of a prior year's webinar does not fulfill the requirement for eligibility in FY25. For regional applications, only the primary applicant is required to complete this training. Participation must be via a computer or tablet with sound. No call-in option will be provided.

Webinar Schedule:

Date	Time	How to Access
February 14, 2025	2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	<u>CLICK HERE</u> Enter meeting ID and/or passcode as prompted: Meeting ID: 265 517 719 879 Passcode: PCojEe
February 18, 2025	10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	
February 19, 2025	6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	
February 21, 2025	2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	
February 24, 2025	3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	
February 25, 2025	9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	
February 26, 2025	8:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	

XII. HOW TO APPLY

The completed application consists of an Excel file with three (3) separate tabs:

- Cover Sheet
- Supporting Regional Applicants*
- Budget Worksheet

*Only required for regional applications.

The application document is available [HERE](#).

Completing the Application

1. This document is intended to be filled out in the order the tabs are arranged in from left to right. Navigate from one tab to the next by clicking on the appropriate title in the bottom ribbon, as shown below:

Cover Sheet | Supporting Regional Applicants | Budget Worksheet

2. Only those cells that require data input from the applicant are unlocked and able to be edited. Excel will auto-fill certain cells as the document is completed, and complete all mathematic calculations on the “Budget Worksheet.”

Cover Sheet

1. Fill out all underlined fields in this form.
 - a. If the Fire Chief will be serving as the Grant Manager, the Grant Manager Section may be left blank. DFS will include the Fire Chief and any Grant Manager named on the application on all notification and reminder emails for this grant. Any Grant Manager named on the application will also have authority to sign and submit reimbursement requests for this grant.

Supporting Regional Applicants

1. If submitting a regional application, fill out all applicable fields for the departments that will be part of the application. If submitting a single department application, leave this page blank.

Budget Worksheet

1. The maximum eligible award amount will be shown at the top of this page, along with the department name and application type that are selected on the Cover Sheet. Working through each budget category, select the equipment type, then answer the two questions posed in the top row of the section, and enter the quantity and unit price of the items funding is being requested for.
2. As rows are filled out, the “Application Amount” and “Amount Remaining” numbers will total up the request and provide a current total. Eligible fire departments may not apply for more than the maximum eligible award amount.

Interoperable Communications Investment Proposal (ICIP)

1. If you are requesting any equipment with a nexus to emergency communications, review the ICIP form (available [here](#)) to determine if the equipment you are requesting falls within any of the listed exemptions on page 2.
2. If it does not, this form must be filled out and submitted to DFS with your application. If the equipment you are requesting is exempt, no further action is needed.
3. Departments that submit an application for communications equipment that requires the ICIP form but do not submit the ICIP form or required quote with their application must submit the missing documentation to DFS before the later of the two following dates:
 - a. The application submission deadline.
 - b. Ten (10) business days after notification from DFS that the ICIP and quote are required.

Applicants that do not fulfill this requirement within the stated timeline will have all applicable communications items removed from their application. These applications will be evaluated and awarded based on the merits of any non-communications items listed on their application.

Submitting the Application

1. The completed Excel file must be emailed to OPS.DFS-TM-Grants@mass.gov no later than **5:00 p.m. on February 27, 2025**, as an Excel file. If unable to sign the Excel file electronically, please submit the Excel file unsigned and a separate signed copy as a PDF (scanned).

Handwritten forms will not be accepted. Hard copies should not be mailed to DFS.

Application Process Questions

All questions on the application process must be submitted to DFS by phone at 978-567-3721 or email at OPS.DFS-TM-Grants@mass.gov.

XIII. GRANT MONITORING

The Department of Fire Services may conduct grant monitoring through either a desk-based review or on-site monitoring visits, or both, to obtain additional information or verify information related to grant spending, grant-funded activity, or grant award outcomes. Advance notice will be given prior to a site visit. Findings of non-compliance with any portion of the terms of the FY25 Firefighter Safety Equipment Application, the executed Standard Contract Form, or the DFS Grant Agreement Scope of Work and Budget may result in a demand for funds to be returned to DFS.

XIV. CONTACT

For technical assistance or questions on this application, please contact Tim Moore at 978-567-3721 or by e-mail at OPS.DFS-TM-Grants@mass.gov.

XV. ALLOWABLE EQUIPMENT LIST

The items below shall be considered allowable expenses within this grant, and will be scored according to the High, Medium, and Low Priority designations as shown:

Station Equipment	
Item Description	Priority Level
Air Compressor/Fill Station	L
Fit Testing Machine	M
Gear Drying Rack/Cabinet	H
Tumble Dryer	H
Washer-Extractor	H

Apparatus Equipment	
Item Description	Priority Level
CO Detector	M
Command Board/Personnel Accountability System	H
Communications Headsets	M
Electric Vehicle Emergency Plug	H
Electric Vehicle Nozzle	L
Handheld Thermal Imager	H
HCN Detector	M
Hydraulic or Battery Operated Extrication Tool	M
Ice Rescue Board	M
Lifting Air Bags	M
Li-Ion Battery Storage Drum	L
Li-Ion Fire Blanket	L
Li-Ion Fire Extinguishing Agent	L
Multi-Gas Detector	M
Portable Scene Lighting	M
PPV Fan	M
Rescue Saw/Chain Saw	M
SCBA Bottle	M
SCBA System	M

Personal Equipment	
Item Description	Priority Level
Ballistic Helmet	H
Ballistic Vest	H
Boots (Structural)	H
Boots (Wildland)	M
Coat (EMS/Extrication)	H
Coat (Structural)	H
Coat (Wildland)	M
Complete Set of Gear (EMS/Extrication)	H
Complete Set of Gear (Structural)	H
Complete Set of Gear (Wildland)	M
Gloves (EMS/Extrication)	H
Gloves (Structural)	H
Gloves (Wildland)	M
Handheld Light	M
Helmet (Structural)	H
Helmet (Wildland)	M
Hood (Structural/Wildland)	H
Pagers	L
Pants & Suspenders (EMS/Extrication)	H
Pants & Suspenders (Structural)	H
Pants & Suspenders (Wildland)	M
Personal Alarm Safety System	L
Personal Harness	H
Portable Radio Accessories	L
SCBA Facepiece	H