

Balsam-Willets-Ochre Hill Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

P.O. Box 291 Balsam, NC 28707



February 8, 2023

Mr. Don Adams
Jackson County Manager
401 Grindstaff Cove Road
Sylva, NC 28779

Re: 2023/2024 Fiscal Year Budget Request

Dear Mr. Adams,

The Balsam-Willets-Ochre Hill Volunteer Fire Department would like to express our appreciation to Jackson County and especially to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners for your willingness to consider our request for an appropriation in the Jackson County 2023/2024 Fiscal Year Budget to provide the necessary local 50% match for the North Carolina Volunteer Fire Grant administered through the NC Department of Insurance.

This volunteer fire grant program is available to volunteer fire departments that meet certain state guidelines and is a great way for small rural departments to fund capital needs, purchase personal protective equipment, etc. that carry huge price tags. The maximum total amount of dollars that any one department can apply for is \$60,000. The NC Department of Insurance has created a list of items that are eligible grant expenditures. The equipment must be maintained at the fire station for which the grant was awarded and be used in helping provide fire protection to the district the department serves. The grant applications are due by March 1, 2023. The award notification will occur on May 15, 2023. Departments receiving the grant can move forward with purchases after May 15, 2023, and have until September 2023 to submit back to the NC Department of Insurance the required invoices and bank statements to show that items were purchased and received. Once having received the required documentation, the NC Department of Insurance will provide the fire department with a check for 50% of the grant expense.

Balsam Fire Department is looking to submit an application for the 2023 NC Volunteer Fire Grant in the amount of \$59,600 to upgrade our emergency radio communication equipment. Of this total grant amount, \$29,800 is the required local match that we are requesting assistance with from Jackson County.

The current UHF radio network being utilized by Balsam Fire Department is approaching the end of its useful life. Most of the radios being used today exceed 10 years in age, show signs of wear, are no longer in production by the manufacturer, and lack the most current technology options. Also, not all of the radios are the same model which creates problems when trying to swap out batteries or exchange radios with other personnel that do not have the same model. Currently, the department only has one Viper 800 MHz radio. Viper radios are the primary form of communication during declared states of emergency. We would be looking to add some additional Viper radios to our department. Currently none of the fire department radios meet the new federal P25 standards. Project 25 (P25) develops standards for interoperable land mobile radio (LMR) systems so emergency responders can exchange critical communications across agencies and jurisdictions. P25 standardizes interfaces between the various components of the LMR systems emergency responders' use.

Communication is a vital part of providing an adequate emergency response and is essential in working to achieve responder safety. Not only will these new radios be in better working condition, they come outfitted with GPS locator technology, the P25 emergency standards, and more user friendly features. Standardization of equipment will also be a big advantage. These new units are much needed and will make a big difference.

Equipment Breakdown with approximate projected costs:

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Cost
UHF Base Radio for Main Station	1	\$1,000	\$1,000
Viper 800 MHz Base Radio for Main Station	1	\$3,500	\$3,500
Vehicle mounted UHF Base Radio (fire trucks only)	11	\$1,000	\$11,000
Vehicle mounted Viper 800 MHz Base Radio (fire trucks only)	3	\$2,800	\$8,400
Handheld Viper 800 MHz radios (for officers only)	5	\$2,300	\$11,500
Handheld UHF County Radios with extra battery (for firefighters)	22	\$1,100	\$24,200
Total Equipment Costs:			\$59,600
Local Match Required (Jackson Co. allocates to Balsam VFD)			\$29,800
NC Department of Insurance Grant Match			\$29,800

Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Thomas McMahan
Fire Chief

Qualla Volunteer Fire Department

PO Box 303
Whittier, NC 28789-0303

Email quallafirerescue@yahoo.com
Whittier, NC 28789

147 Shoal Creek Church Loop



February 7, 2023

For the 2023 fire grant we will be buying 6 new SCBA through the NCSFA Grant fund. The total for these packs quoted from MES will be \$67,268.76. This grant as you know is a 50/50 matching funds grant up to \$30,000. Which translates to \$30,000 paid by the state and \$30,000 paid by the department. The total for these 6 SCBA exceeds the \$30,000 limit that the state will pay. This leaves an extra \$7,268.76 that the department will have to pay as well. On top of this amount we are looking to purchase 2 more SCBA from our budget for another \$22,422.92. This brings the total expense for Qualla Fire Department to \$59,691.68. If the Commissioners approve to cover the fire departments part of the matching grant that would take the total paid by Qualla to \$29,691.68 that we will still pay for a total of 8 air packs, 6 through the grant and 2 out of the department budget. Buying 8 total SCBA with new masks bottles and 1 spare bottle each will allow us to outfit 2 engines with brand new air packs. Our current SCBA are NFPA 2007 standard with the most recent standards for SCBA are 2018. That puts us at 2 standards behind. We also have approximately 32 air bottles for our SCBA that will be out of DOT service life in 2025. The bottles and spare bottles that come with these new SCBA will replace 16 of those and each new bottle will have a 15 year service life.

Grant amount requested: \$67,268.76

State & County pay out: \$30,000 each

Department Payout for Grant: \$7,268.76

2 Extra SCBA from department budget: \$22,422.92

Qualla total for grant and 2 SCBA: \$29,691.68

Grand total up front from Qualla: \$89,691.68

Captain


Trevor Sutton

Canada Fire & Rescue Total Request

13 sets of Turnout Gear & PPE

Attached is the breakdown of cost per set: \$4,690.60 each

Total amount for 13 sets: \$60,977

State pay out: \$30,000

County pay out: \$30,000

Department Payout after Grant: \$977



NEWTON'S FIRE & SAFETY EQUIPMENT, INC.

PO Box 13 ~ 2724 Sweatsonville-Saxapahaw Rd.
Sweatsonville, NC 27359
Toll Free: 800-672-5918 Fax: (336) 578-1982

Quotation

Date: January 6, 2023
Quote #: LP020623CFD
Purchased/Requested By: Terry Mccall
Salesperson: Lee Perkins
County: Jackson
Payment Terms: NET/30
FOB: Origin PPD/Add

BILL TO: Canade Fire Department
Po Box 58
Tuckasegee NC 28783

SHIP TO: Canada Fire Department
149 Charlies Creek Rd
Tuckasegee, NC 28783

Quantity	Units	Item No.	Item Description	Unit Price	Extd. Price
1		GXTREME	Globe GXTREME Coat with Current Spec	\$ 1,760.00	\$ 1,760.00
1		GPS Pant	Globe GPS Pant with Current Spec	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 1,550.00
1		1201420	Globe Supreme 14" Leather Structural Boot	\$ 520.00	\$ 520.00
1		1044Special	Cairns 1044 Std. w/NFPA Bourkes & Carved Eagle	\$ 340.00	\$ 340.00
1		Style 27	Std. Leather Front w/Raised Or Sunken Number6"	\$ 52.00	\$ 52.00
1		3979471	PGI BarrierAire Gold Particulate Hood, Complete Coverage	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
1		8180	HexArmor 8180 Structural Glove	\$ 72.00	\$ 72.00

NOTES:

(Jackson) 6.75%

Sales Total:	\$	4,394.00
Estimated Freight:	ADD	
Sales Tax:	\$	296.60
Total:	\$	4,690.60

You will only be able to select equipment consistent with the services your department provides.

Total Cost (\$) 59,980.96

<u>Category</u>	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Item Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
Communications	Battery Charger/Reconditioner/Spare Battery	20	473.00	9,460.00
Communications	Pager (Specify Band, VHF, UHF, 800)	7	642.62	4,498.34
Communications	Portable Radio (Specify Band VHF, UHF, 800, Marine)	2	2,497.91	4,995.82
Communications	Portable Radio (Specify Band VHF, UHF, 800, Marine)	6	909.20	5,455.20
Extrication, Stabilization, Forcible Entry	Handsaw	1	192.50	192.50
Hose, Streams, Appliances	Extinguisher (Specify type and class in notes field)	3	137.50	412.50
Hose, Streams, Appliances	Foam, Encapsulator Foam (UL Approved Label)	24	176.00	4,224.00
Hose, Streams, Appliances	Nozzle, Forestry	2	82.50	165.00
Personal Protective	Turnout Gear, Boots NFPA 1971	5	451.00	2,255.00
Personal Protective	Turnout Gear, Coats NFPA 1971 (Not for Technical Rescue incidents)	5	1,837.00	9,185.00
Personal Protective	Turnout Gear, Gloves NFPA 1971	5	89.50	447.50
Personal Protective	Turnout Gear, Helmets NFPA 1971	5	447.70	2,238.50
Personal Protective	Turnout Gear, Hood NFPA 1971	12	107.80	1,293.60
Personal Protective	Turnout Gear, Pants NFPA 1971 (Not for Technical Rescue Incidents)	5	1,358.50	6,792.50
Scene Management	Multi-Gas Monitor - Atmospheric	1	1,595.00	1,595.00
Scene Management	RIT Pak (Bag only)	1	341.00	341.00
Scene Management	RIT Pak With Bottle and Regulator	1	5,593.50	5,593.50

<u>Category</u>	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Item Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
Wildland Fire	Hose, Forestry 1 Inch	8	104.50	836.00

Savannah Fire Department 02/14/2023