



# Board of County Commissioners

To: Boulder County Board of County Commissioners

From: Barb Halpin, Staff Liaison to the Emergency Services Grant Program Advisory Committee

Date: December 21, 2023

Subject: Emergency Services Grant Program Advisory Committee Funding Recommendations – 2023 Funding for Fire Protection Districts That Serve the Mountain and Rural Areas of Unincorporated Boulder County

The Emergency Services Grant Program Advisory Committee provides recommendations to the Boulder County Commissioners regarding the allocation of funding for the grant program portion of the Emergency Services Ballot Measure (ESBM) approved by voters in 2022.

In August 2023, the Board of County Commissioners appointed the following members to the Emergency Services Grant Program Advisory Committee (further referred to as “Advisory Committee”):

- Lynette Anderson – Member-at-Large
- Kate Beezley – Member of an Outdoor/Recreational organization
- Juliette Hans – Member-at-Large
- Ben Hogan (Vice-Chair) – Search & Rescue representative
- Doug Hurst – Member-at-Large
- Maria Kuntz – Accessibility/Mobility representative
- Doris Rigoni – Represented by a Rural/Mountain FPD East
- Rick Sheingold – Former member of a Fire Protection District (FPD)
- Dennis Whalen (Chair) – Represented by a Rural/Mountain FPD West

For the first round of grants conducted as part of the ESBM, the Advisory Committee was tasked with making funding recommendations for fire protection districts that serve the mountain and rural areas of Boulder County using a portion of the Emergency Services Sales and Use Tax collected in 2023.

Boulder County received six applications for funding requests. The Advisory Committee created a process to evaluate the funding request applications and met three times (virtually, on Zoom) from 6-8 p.m. on November 10, November 28, and December 12 to develop review criteria and to review and evaluate the grant requests.

(continued)

**Claire Levy** County Commissioner **Marta Loachamin** County Commissioner **Ashley Stolzmann** County Commissioner

Boulder County Courthouse • 1325 Pearl Street • Boulder, Colorado 80302 • Tel: 303.441.3500 • Fax: 303.441.4525  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 471 • Boulder, CO 80306 • [www.BoulderCounty.org](http://www.BoulderCounty.org) • [commissioners@bouldercounty.org](mailto:commissioners@bouldercounty.org)

## Evaluation Process

- 1) Each Advisory Committee member independently reviewed each application using the following criteria:
  1. Does the grant request meet the one-time grant criteria? – Yes / No
  2. Does the grant request serve one of the stated purposes below? – Yes/ No
    - a. Supplemental funding for the needs of fire districts in mountainous and rural areas;
    - b. Small and large equipment or small capital projects or needs;
    - c. Operational costs of search and rescue organizations.
  3. Does the organization show financial and operational sustainability through its grant application? – Ranking 1-5<sup>1</sup>
  4. Does the grant request demonstrate cooperative or cross-agency grant application? – Ranking 1-5
  5. Does the grant request fall into a prioritized category (see Q#2 for categories)? – Ranking 1-5
  6. Does the grant request fill a gap/need in the organization’s effectiveness in emergency response? – Ranking 1-5
  7. Does the grant request enhance efficiency of emergency response? – Ranking 1-5
  8. Does the grant request encourage replicability or collaboration across fire districts? – Ranking 1-5
  9. Does the grant serve prioritized community members? – Ranking 1-5
- 2) The Advisory Committee then met (virtually, on Zoom) to discuss the six applications and determine how to allocate an amount not-to-exceed \$1,663,320.
- 3) As part of its assessment, the Advisory Committee considered the following principles for how to come to a final funding recommendation:
  - Prioritize funding for fire districts that demonstrate need and/or are underfunded compared to professional/career/municipal fire departments or districts;
  - Acknowledge that any granted request will set a precedent for future grant rounds;
  - Recognize that it is a rare situation where the available grant funding amount exceeds the total amount of grant requests and assume the opposite will be the norm in future rounds (i.e., it is likely that grant requests will exceed the amount of funding available in future rounds).
- 4) After deliberation during two open public grant review sessions held on November 28 and December 12 (recordings available at: <https://boco.org/EmergencyServicesGrants>), the Advisory Committee voted to approve the following Funding Recommendations:

[See Chart on Next Page]

---

<sup>1</sup> Ranking scale:  
1 – N/A or Insufficient Information  
2 – Low  
3 – Medium  
4 – High  
5 – Outstanding/Critical/Essential

Agency/Organization Name*	Project/Request	Funding Recommendation
<b>Boulder County Firefighter's Assoc. (BCFFA)</b>	Unified Agencies Radio Equipment for all rural and mountain fire districts. The dual band radios (800mhz and VHF) will improve communication between fire districts (and with municipal fire departments) across Boulder County.	\$1,292,359
<b>Gold Hill Fire Protection District</b>	Hose and Life Safety Equipment for Gold Hill response area.	\$ 78,186
<b>Hygiene Fire Protection District</b>	Bunker Gear for Hygiene firefighters.	\$ 56,200
<b>Indian Peaks Fire Protection District</b>	LP15 Defibrillator for emergency response in Indian Peaks Wilderness area, including Peak 2 Peak recreational areas.	\$ 36,297
<b>City of Lafayette Fire Department</b>	Technical Rescue Equipment for use regionally across Boulder County, including rural and mountain communities.	\$ 96,368
<b>Sunshine Fire Protection District</b>	Brake retarder for apparatus 4505; Partial funding towards purchase of UTV and Command Vehicle.	\$ 103,910
	<b>Total Recommended Funding</b>	<b>\$1,663,320</b>

\*Agencies/organizations that receive funding in one year are ineligible to receive funding the following year.

Thank you for your consideration of the Emergency Services Grant Program Advisory Committee's funding recommendations.

**Action Requested:** Approval of the Emergency Services Grant Program Advisory Committee's 2023 Grant Recommendations allocating \$1,663,320 from the grant portion of the 2023 Emergency Services Sales & Use Tax revenues.