



# Board of County Commissioners

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Boulder County Board of County Commissioners

**Cc:** Boulder County Sheriff Curtis Johnson

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

**Date:** June 3, 2025

**Subject:** Emergency Services Grant Program Advisory Committee Funding Recommendations – Spring 2025 Search and Rescue and Trail Safety Emergency Services Grant Round

## Introduction

The Emergency Services Grant Program Advisory Committee (ESGPAC) provides recommendations to the Boulder County Commissioners on the allocation of funds from the Emergency Services Grant Program, established by County Issue "1B" and approved by voters in 2022. Grant awards are funded by proceeds from the Emergency Services Sales and Use Tax created through this ballot measure.

For the second year in a row, the Spring 2025 Grant Round was offered to search and rescue groups and organizations working to make public trails and recreational areas in Boulder County safer and more accessible for all community members.

**ESGPAC recommends funding five proposals for a total award of \$485,158.39 (see table on p. 2 for proposal descriptions).**

## Evaluation Process

Boulder County received eight funding proposals totaling \$698,528.39 for the Spring 2025 Grant Round. The advisory committee created a process for evaluating the proposals and met twice (April 22 and 29) to review and evaluate the applications. Both meetings were open to the public to attend and observe.

Before the discussion meetings, each advisory committee member reviewed and scored the proposals on their own. The scores were shared in aggregate at the two grant review meetings for comparison and evaluation purposes.

**Commissioner Claire Levy • Commissioner Marta Loachamin • Commissioner Ashley Stolzmann**  
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ESGPAC members evaluated all proposals based on the following criteria:

- Fills a gap or need that would enhance an organization's effectiveness in emergency response, specifically as it relates to search and rescue and trail/trailhead safety;
- Enhances the efficiency of search and rescue or emergency responders in the rural and mountain areas of Boulder County;
- Serves community members equitably (i.e., Increase accessibility for underserved communities, such as Black, Indigenous and People of Color, differently abled, aging adults, youth, non-English speakers, etc.);
- Provides benefit for Boulder County residents.

On April 29, 2025, the committee approved a recommendation for an award of \$485,158.39 for five proposals.

### Emergency Services Sales & Use Tax Spring 2025 Grant Round Funding Recommendations

#	Organization	Proposal	Proposal Summary	Award Amount
1	<b>Boulder Emergency Squad</b>	Capital Improvements and Equipment Purchases and Upgrades	Boulder Emergency Squad seeks funding to address urgent capital and equipment needs to sustain its rescue services in Boulder County. The request covers facility upgrades, a new UTV, extrication tools, UAS technology improvements, communications enhancements, and wildland PPE—investments that will strengthen emergency response and enhance safety for both rescuers and the public.	\$319,550.00
2	<b>City of Longmont</b>	Enhancing Watershed Ranger EMS Capacity	Proposal aims to improve trail user safety at Button Rock Preserve and bolster the Watershed Ranger team's emergency response capabilities by enhancing radio communications and expanding year-round access. Funding is requested for updated radio equipment (two Motorola APX8000s and one BKR5000) and a track system for the Ranger Polaris 1000 Crew UTV. (Note: Button Rock Preserve is in unincorporated Boulder County and abuts Boulder County Hall Ranch Open Space)	\$25,650.28
3	<b>Colorado 4x4 Rescue and Recovery</b>	Mileage Reimbursement and Telecommunications	Proposal requests continued support for CO4X4's volunteer mileage reimbursement program to help offset fuel costs incurred during incident response in Boulder County. Also seeks to upgrade organization's telecommunications and improve dispatch and coordination using radios programmed to communicate intra-agency among responders.	\$10,000.00
4	<b>Friends of Colorado Avalanche Information Center</b>	Back Country Trailheads Initiating in Boulder County Avalanche Education and Outreach	Proposal aims to support Trailhead Outreach Program activities in Boulder County for the 2025/2026 season. Funding will enable at least eight in-person trailhead visits where staff will offer free avalanche safety education to backcountry users at high-traffic access points originating in Boulder County.	\$7,368.34
5	<b>Rocky Mountain Rescue Group</b>	Snow Rescue Equipment and Radios	Funding to purchase and upgrade snow rescue equipment, including a new snowmobile and trailer for winter rescues and severe weather improvements that will support safer, more effective missions in remote areas for both residents and visitors. Proposal also includes replacing outdated radios to meet county standards and enhance the agency's emergency response capabilities in Boulder County.	\$122,589.77

**Total Recommendation (five proposals)      \$485,158.39**

**Action Requested:**

BOCC approval of the Emergency Services Grant Program Advisory Spring 2025 Search and Rescue and Trail Safety Emergency Services Grant Round Recommendations for five proposals from the list above for a total of \$485,158.39.