



Kansas Governor's Grants Program Local Safety and Security Equipment Grant Program (LSSE)

LSSE Solicitation

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated June 9, 2023

1. The General Information Page requires contact information for a fiscal officer. Should this be the office's finance person or the City or County treasurer?

The fiscal officer contact information on the General Information Page should be for the individual responsible for the fiscal oversight of the grant project and accounting transactions if a LSSE grant is awarded to the applicant.

2. Can an agency submit an application as the prime applicant and be named a subrecipient on another entity's application?

Example: an agency is part of a county's application to modernize all radio equipment, but the agency also intends to submit a different application for separate funding for other equipment.

An applicant should not submit an application that "subgrants" a portion of a subgrant award to another entity. However, an agency can partner with other entities to submit a consolidated application for efficiencies in grant management, assuming the applicant agency is willing to take on the grant administration and accounting for the entire grant project. While an applicant may apply to use LSSE grant funds to purchase equipment for another entity, the applicant agency is ultimately responsible for the tracking and monitoring the purchased items. Applicants are strongly encouraged to prepare and submit separate LSSE applications if the tracking and monitoring of equipment used by other entities might pose a challenge.

3. Should a county write one grant application for all departments or one grant per department?

Either way is appropriate, if grant managers can keep track of grant requirements and any equipment purchased. The applicant agency is ultimately responsible for the accounting and grant reporting and the tracking and monitoring of the purchased items.

4. Is there a maximum funding amount that can be requested in the LSSE application?

There is no maximum amount. However, this competitive grant has limited LSSE funds, and requests will likely exceed the available funds. Emphasis will be placed on the justification provided, the impact of LSSE funds on the applicant agency and operations, and the complete specific configurations of the items requested.

5. Has KGGP offered this funding opportunity previously? If so, would you share the types of funding awarded and the number of previous awards?

The LSSE grant program is a new one-time grant opportunity.

6. What can be used as a match?

The purpose of matching contributions is to increase the resources available for the projects supported by LSSE grant funds and convey the applicant agency's commitment to the project. A cash match of 10 percent of the total cost of each LSSE grant project (grant award plus match) is required for each LSSE funded grant project. The Local Fiscal Recovery Funds or Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Funds may be used for the required cash match. General City or County funds or E911 funds may be good sources of cash match.

7. Is the 10 percent a minimum or a maximum match?

The 10 percent cash match is a minimum requirement. Increasing the cash match may show grant application reviewers a more efficient use of grant funding and the potential for positive buy-in and impact from a grant award.

8. Is staff time and effort an allowable source of matching funds?

Staff time and effort directly tied to the LSSE project activities and implementation may be allowable; however, it should not be the primary source of the cash match. The cash source utilized for applicable staff salaries/wages must be identified in the application and must be a source eligible for matching a LSSE grant.

It should be noted that staff time and effort to administer the grant, such as accounting and reporting, is not an allowable source of cash match.

9. Can ARPA Revenue Recovery funds be used to meet the cash match requirement?

As a general rule, federal funds cannot be used to match other federal grant funds. However, Local Fiscal Recovery Funds or Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Funds in particular, may be used for the required cash match.

10. What is the ultimate source of this funding?

The LSSE funding is from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 as part of the COVID-19 Coronavirus Relief funding distributed to states by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

11. Do audits need to be attached?

Agencies do not need to mail or send audits. If they have had an audit done, they can provide the website where it is posted at the end of the Project Narrative document. If a LSSE grant award is made and the agency expends \$750,000 or more in federal funds during the fiscal year(s) in which a LSSE subgrant award is open, a copy of the Single Audit Report will be required. These criteria will be conveyed in subgrant award documents.

12. Can LSSE funds be used to refurbish current firetrucks to make them operational? Likewise, must all safety equipment purchased or refurbished with LSSE funds meet NFPA 1901 or NFPA 1906 standards?

LSSE grant funds can be used for wildland firefighting equipment meeting national standards; replacement of unsafe, damaged, non-operational wildland firefighting equipment; and replacement of equipment destroyed by fire. The solicitation does not specify the type of equipment to purchase. However, the solicitation states the focus is on equipment related to wildland firefighting and that it must meet national standards. A request for LSSE funds to refurbish fire trucks may be allowable, provided the applicant clearly articulates the upgrades are essential to wildland firefighting. If an applicant chooses to apply and believes there is a reason it cannot meet the requirements, then outline the reason(s) in the application.

The LSSE grant program is competitive, and applicants meeting all the required criteria in their applications will take priority in funding decisions.

13. Can used equipment be purchased with a grant award?

Yes, an applicant can request to purchase used equipment if the local procurement and purchasing policies are adhered to, and the used equipment meets applicable federal standards.

14. Are purchasing fire trucks or buildings to house trucks/equipment allowable?

Requests for fire trucks and equipment are allowable. The applicant must justify the need for funds and demonstrate the use for wildland firefighting. Construction or purchase of buildings is not allowed.

15. Are drones allowed under upgrades critical to emergency response?

The overarching purpose of the grant program is to assist local jurisdictions across Kansas in achieving modernization of communications infrastructure and

equipment, enabling local entities to meet the current federal encryption standards and facilitate interoperability with local, county, and state communications. Please refer to the [LSSE webpage](#) for additional criteria regarding the purpose and priorities of the LSSE funds. A drone request would be a low priority for LSSE funding.

16. The CISA mandate is mentioned several times in the solicitation. What is this?

Compliance with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency mandate is required to ensure safe and secure interactions and communications interoperability. More information can be found at <https://www.cisa.gov/>.

17. The Budget Summary Form requires an “Explanation” for each line-item request. What does the applicant do if the information exceeds the character limit of that field?

If the applicant cannot fit the explanation (line-item description and cost computation) in the “Explanation” box provided on the form, attach a document to show the complete computation and note "see attachment" in the applicable Budget Summary Form field(s).

18. Can the LSSE grant be used for recently purchased equipment?

No. LSSE grant funds must be used for purchases approved through the application process. All LSSE purchases and expenditures must occur during the grant project period of October 1, 2023, to December 31, 2024.

Procurement and purchase procedures should be completed by December 31, 2024. If supply chain problems prevent completion by that date, an extension must be requested to the KGGP for approval.

19. Can a unit within a city or county government use the City or County government’s System Award Management (SAM) number?

Yes, if the city or county government’s SAM administrator approves its use.

20. Do we include letters of support in our application?

Letters of support are not required. However, the applicant may note in the Project Narrative that letters of support are available upon request.

21. Is there a complete list of items that can purchased with grant funds?

Funding is limited to the following purpose areas:

- Equipment upgrades critical to emergency response and/or law enforcement operations;
- Support for updated interoperability communications systems within Kansas;
- Replacing unsafe, damaged, non-operational wildland firefighting equipment;

- Replacing wildland firefighting equipment destroyed by fire; and/or
- Providing wildland firefighting equipment that meets the national standards.

The Project Narrative must explain how the LSSE grant request falls within the above purpose areas.

22. How are “wildland fires” defined?

Although not defined in the grant solicitation, response to wildland fires at the request of the Kansas Forest Service or to a field or pasture fire would qualify as a wildland fire. Damage resulting from previous wildland fires should be documented in the application with specifics of the response to those incidents.

23. Are there any training or certification requirements to operate grant purchased equipment?

The LSSE grant does not stipulate specific training or certification requirements to operate equipment. The grant recipient would be expected to adhere to agency policy and procedure related to training and certification and adhere to applicable federal and state standards for operating such equipment. Mentioning training and certifications in the narrative might show the grant application reviewers that equipment will be correctly and efficiently utilized.

24. Will partial grant requests be awarded?

Depending on the number of applications and grant amount requests, a partial grant request may be awarded.

25. Will the subrecipient pay all costs up front and then be reimbursed our 90 percent or does the State pay as we go?

The LSSE grant funds are reimbursed monthly for purchases. However, for a large purchase, an advance payment can be requested.

26. Will grant application reviewers be familiar with firefighting equipment or should a thorough explanation of any request be made?

It is anticipated that fire service experts will be on the grant review committee. Keep in mind that non-fire grant application reviewers will also participate in assessing the applications. As with any competitive grant application, the applicant should not assume a specific level of knowledge by grant reviewers. The applicant should provide detailed and appropriate explanations that justifies the request.

For more information, contact the Kansas Governor’s Grants Program at kggpapp@ks.gov or (785) 291-3205.