





# TOWN OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Department of Fire Rescue  
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Headquarters  
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## Assistance to Firefighter's Grant Program

### Request to Apply for Grant

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Town of Merrimack New Hampshire  
Fire and Rescue



2018

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# AFG Grant Program 2017

## INTRODUCTION

Merrimack Fire Rescue is requesting permission to apply for a Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for at least 48 portable radios and associated equipment. The AFG Grant requires a 10% municipal cost share if we were successful. The AFG allows municipalities to purchase portable radios for each riding/sitting position on the department's apparatus.

## BACKGROUND

The current portable radios we are using are on the average of 12 years old. The manufacturer (Motorola) life cycle for these radios is listed at 10 years with another projected 3 to 5 years of parts and service. The Federal Assistance to Firefighter's Grant documentation identifies portable radios having 8 to 14 year life cycle so this will identify a need for us, and assist in this grant process.

The current portable radios we have were purchased on a previous grant program.

## PROPOSAL:

Our proposal is to purchase 48 portable radios which will be assigned to our emergency personnel. This will allow all personnel who are on duty or off duty to have communications during an emergency. Each radio will have a MDC assigned to it identifying the firefighter who is assigned that radio. During an emergency when a Firefighter needs help they can activate their emergency button which will automatically send out an emergency signal to dispatch and Command initiating search and rescue actions. The key feature here is that once this emergency button has been activated it can only be shutoff at the initiating radio.

Key features of new radios:

- Ruggedized design, meets new Underwriters Laboratory (UL) listing, hardened electronics to a military specification and water proof
  - Lapel microphone is full featured and allows all operations with one hand without the need to remove radio from carrying position.
  - State of the art noise cancellation reduces background noise interference during critical emergency communications. During our testing of the radio this feature dramatically increased the quality of communications between emergency personnel.
  - Emergency alarm button recessed reducing false activations.
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- Radio contains all Mutual Aid radio bands in one unit. Allows interoperability with our Mutual Aid partners including Nashua and Manchester who are two of our biggest mutual aid partners.
- Manchester and Nashua Radio Divisions have committed to assisting us in the programing these radios, reducing programming costs.
- Radios are state of the art and at the beginning of their life cycle.

Estimated cost

The project cost of these portable radios is estimated at \$298,000.00 with a 10 percent match of \$29,800.00 which would be required for grant approval.

Final quotes for this equipment will be completed once the grant has been awarded and will follow all town purchasing requirements for the bid process.

**SUMMARY**

We believe that this radio project is in keeping with the intent of the AFG Grant parameters for high priority equipment due to the age of our existing portable radios.

Our recommendation is to apply for this grant and if successful move forward with accepting the grant with the 10 percent match and expending the funds to purchase new radios with the latest technology.

Merrimack Fire Rescue is always trying to move in a progressive direction as well as providing better service, to our community and safety for our emergency responders.

**Submitted By:**

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