

September 2025

**TO: FIRE PROTECTION AGENCIES IN IOWA**

**RE: Volunteer Fire Assistance Program – Grant Rules**

Iowa expects to receive our Fiscal Year **2025** Grant funds for the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program as authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978. The main features of the program are (Please note that several deadlines have changed from the prior year):

1. Key objectives are saving lives and protecting property in rural areas.
2. Volunteer Fire Assistance Program will pay 50 percent of the cost (not to exceed a maximum of **\$4,500**) to successful grant applicants, with the local agencies also paying 50 percent. Local fire department funds **must** be available when the application is made. Local match funds may not be from a federal funding source.
3. **The deadline to submit applications is October 31, 2025.** Applications submitted via mail must be postmarked by the deadline date.
4. Allocated funds may only be used for equipment identified in the application form. Special requests can be made (buildings and vehicles are not eligible) but will require a more detailed description of the request and need.
5. **NO INDIVIDUAL ITEM CAN BE \$5,000 OR MORE.**  
Call or email if you have questions.
6. Priority will be given to: (1) applicants who **have submitted** Iowa Wildland Fire Reports during 2024 & 2025, (2) acres of state land protected, (3) communities which have not received funds under this program in the previous funding period, (4) areas of greatest need, (5) departments who utilize Wildland PPE and who have strong wildland fire suppression requests.
7. The fire department must be registered with the State Fire Marshal's office and must file all incident reports in a timely manner.
8. Only communities with a population of 10,000 or less qualify.
9. All applications **must** be signed by the Fire Chief and the head of the local government agency or the financial manager for the department (i.e., mayor, chairperson of the township trustees, chairperson of the benefited fire district or fire agency, or the financial officer).
10. All applications **must submit a completed IRS Form W-9** confirming their Federal Tax ID # (this may belong to the fire department or the city) and they **must provide their UEI#**.
11. No applications for less than \$150 (\$75 matching funds) will be approved.

12. Expenditures made between **October 1, 2024, and June 1, 2026**, will qualify. **Projects must be completed by June 30, 2026. All requests for reimbursement must be submitted and postmarked by July 1, 2026.**

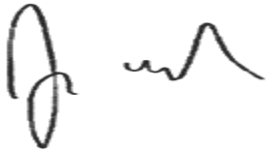
**All applications for funds** must be made on the enclosed form titled USFS Federal Financial Assistance - Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Application 2025.

Applications and IRS W-9 Forms are also available at: [www.iowadnr.gov/fire](http://www.iowadnr.gov/fire)

### **Iowa Wildland Fire Reporting Forms**

Iowa Wildland Fire Reporting Forms can be submitted via the [Iowa DNR Wildland Fire Reporting Google Form](https://www.iowadnr.gov/fire), found at [www.iowadnr.gov/fire](http://www.iowadnr.gov/fire) under **Fire Protection & Prevention**. These reports are needed on any and all uncontrolled wildland area fires you respond to, and any prescribed or controlled wildland burns you assist with. "Wildland" is considered to be grass, pasture, field (corn, beans etc.), ditch, or timber. Without your assistance in reporting these fire events, our ability to support the fire service community with federal funds, training opportunities, valuable equipment and community awareness campaigns is terribly handicapped.

Sincerely,  
Jason Walker



DNR Forestry - Fire Program Supervisor  
Enclosures

**Send Completed Application Form and IRS W-9 Form by mail or email to:**

DNR Forestry - Fire Program  
2404 S Duff Ave  
Ames IA 50010-8093  
[fire-program@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:fire-program@dnr.iowa.gov)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 31, 2025**