

To all Nebraska Volunteer Fire Departments,

The State of Nebraska Office of the CIO is writing to provide you with an update regarding the FY24 Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) Radio Grant.

Equipment Received – Training to be Scheduled

The first-round Motorola along with the first- and second-round Kenwood radio equipment have been received. SRS is working to prepare these kits. Once the kits are assembled, new training sessions will be scheduled, and the equipment will be distributed then.

In order to have up-to-date information on when sessions become available, please check the [website](#) for any changes ([link](#); QR code available below).



Those who ordered cases will receive them during the training sessions.

VFDs that requested installations will be contacted by their chosen vendors at a later date. The vendor will schedule a time to install the radio in the chosen vehicle. You do not need to bring your VFD's vehicle for training but will need to take it to the vendor for installation.

Battery Chargers

VFDs who ordered chargers for their equipment will receive either a Motorola NNTN8860B charger or the Kenwood KSC-52BK charger depending on the brand of their radio. If you wish to purchase a different charger, you will need to speak with your vendor contact. Chargers cost approximately \$150 each.

Vehicle Charger Installation

The following 94 departments have requested vehicle chargers and should only be working with their listed vendor to have the charger installed. The VFD's and their chosen vendors are listed below.

Dept Name	Vendor for Charger Installation
ADAMS RURAL FIRE DEPT	Shaffer Communication
AINSWORTH FIRE & RESCUE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications
ALBION VOL FIRE DEPT	Electronic Engineering
ALMA RURAL FIRE DIST	Platte Valley Communications

AMHERST VOL FIRE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications
ASHLAND FIRE DEPT	First Wireless
AURORA VOL FIRE DEPT	Midland Telecom
BEE VOL FIRE DEPT	Shaffer Communication
BENEDICT VOL FIRE DEPT	Midland Telecom
BENNET RURAL FIRE DEPT	Shaffer Communication
BERTRAND FIRE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications
BLUE HILL VOL FIRE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications
BRAINARD VOL FIRE DEPT	Shaffer Communication
BROADWATER VOL FIRE DEPT	Prairie States Communication
BRULE VOL FIRE DEPT	Absolute Solutions
BURWELL VOL FIRE DEPT	Midland Telecom
BUSHNELL FIRE DEPARTMENT	Action Communications
CENTRAL CITY VOL FIRE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications
CHAPMAN VOL FIRE & RESCUE	Platte Valley Communications
CHAPPELL VOL FIRE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications
CLARKS VOL FIRE DEPT	Midland Telecom
CRAWFORD FIRE & RESCUE	Action Communications
CREIGHTON VOL FIRE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications
CURTIS VOL FIRE DEPT	Prairie States Communication
DAKOTA CITY VOL FIRE & RESCUE	Electronic Engineering
DONIPHAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT	Midland Telecom
DOUGLAS VOL FIRE DEPT	First Wireless
DWIGHT VOL FIRE DEPT	Shaffer Communication
EDGAR VOL FIRE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications
ELBA FIRE & RESCUE	Midland Telecom
ELM CREEK FIRE & RESCUE	Platte Valley Communications
ELSIE VOL FIRE DEPT	Prairie States Communication
ERICSON VOL FIRE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications
FAIRMONT VOL FIRE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications
FULLERTON VOL FIRE DEPT	Midland Telecom
GENEVA FIRE & RESCUE	Platte Valley Communications
GENOA VOL FIRE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications
GERING VOL FIRE DEPT	Action Communications
GIBBON VOL FIRE DEPT & RESCUE	Platte Valley Communications
GOTHENBURG VOL FIRE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications
GRAFTON RURAL FIRE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications
GRANT FIRE DEPT	Prairie States Communication
HARRISON VOL FIRE DEPT	Action Communications
HAY SPRINGS VOL FIRE DEPT	Action Communications
HAYES COUNTY VOL FIRE DEPT	Prairie States Communication
HEMINGFORD VOL FIRE DEPT	Action Communications
HERSHEY VOL FIRE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications
HOMER VOL FIRE DEPT	Tri-State communications
IMPERIAL VOL FIRE DEPT	Prairie States Communication
KEARNEY VOL FIRE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications
KEYSTONE-LEMOYNE FIRE & RESCUE	Absolute Solutions

KIMBALL VOL FIRE DEPT	Action Communications
LAUREL VOL FIRE DEPT	Tri-State communications
MALCOLM FIRE AND RESCUE	First Wireless
MAYWOOD WELLFLEET RURAL FIRE DIST	Prairie States Communication
MCGREW VOL FIRE DEPT	Action Communications
MCPHERSON COUNTY FIRE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications
MEAD VOL FIRE & RESCUE DEPT	First Wireless
MONROE FIRE & RESCUE	Electronic Engineering
MORRILL VOL FIRE DEPT	Action Communications
NEHAWKA RURAL VOL FIRE DEPT	First Wireless
NELIGH VOL FIRE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications
NICKERSON VOL FIRE DEPT	First Wireless
NIOBRARA VOL FIRE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications
ONEILL VOL FIRE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications
OSHKOSH VOL FIRE DEPT	Absolute Solutions
OSMOND FIRE DEPT	Electronic Engineering
OXFORD VOL FIRE & RESCUE	Platte Valley Communications
PALMER FIRE DEPT	Midland Telecom
PENDER FIRE & RESCUE DEPT	Tri-State communications
PETERSBURG VOL FIRE & RESCUE	Platte Valley Communications
PLEASANT DALE VOL FIRE DEPT	First Wireless
PLEASANTON VOL FIRE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications
POTTER VOL FIRE DEPT	Prairie States Communication
PRAGUE FIRE & RESCUE	First Wireless
RACKETT VOL FIRE DEPT	Absolute Solutions
RANDOLPH FIRE DEPT	Tri-State communications
RAYMOND VOL FIRE DEPT	First Wireless
RISING CITY RURAL FIRE DEPT	Shaffer Communication
SANDHILLS FIRE PROT DIST	Action Communications
SIDNEY VOL FIRE DEPT	Prairie States Communication
SOUTHWEST RURAL FIRE DEPT	First Wireless
ST EDWARD VOL FIRE & RESCUE	Platte Valley Communications
ST PAUL VOL FIRE DEPT	Midland Telecom
STEINAUER VOL FIRE DEPT	First Wireless
STUART FIRE & RESCUE	Midland Telecom
TABLE ROCK VOL FIRE DEPT	Shaffer Communication
VALPARAISO RURAL FIRE DEPT	First Wireless
VERDIGRE VOL FIRE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications
WAVERLY FIRE & RESCUE DEPT	Shaffer Communication
WILBER VOL FIRE DEPT	First Wireless
WILSONVILLE-HENDLEY RURAL FIRE DIST	Platte Valley Communications
WINNEBAGO VOL FIRE DEPT	Tri-State communications
WOOD RIVER VOL FIRE DEPT	Platte Valley Communications

The cost of installation is covered by the grant (excepting travel cost), so there is no need to make other arrangements for the vehicle charger installation.

Immediately after receiving the radio equipment, please work with the listed vendor to schedule the vehicle charger installation in the designated vehicle.

Training Information on Website

Training materials are now available on the website. These include videos, instructions, and other information for utilizing your equipment. Additional materials may be added in the future. You can reach the website at [this link](#) or by using the QR code available above.

Current Training Schedule

Date and Time	Availability	Location	Equipment Available
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New training sessions to be announced.

Additional cancelations due to equipment availability may be necessary.

Additional dates and locations, including May and June training sessions, will be posted in future updates.

SRS Booth at Fire School

SRS will have a booth at Fire School on May 17th, 18th, and 19th in Grand Island, Nebraska. This gives VFDs the opportunity to ask questions regarding the grant radios or Statewide Radio System.

System Users Group (SUG) Meetings

The Systems Users Group meets bi-monthly at the NPPD facility in York, Nebraska, and is streamed online using Microsoft Teams. The meetings are open to all users of the Statewide Radio System and anyone else with interest in the operations of the system.

These meetings provide an opportunity for users to discuss system operations, maintenance, and other pertinent topics. It is recommended that users of the SRS attend the meetings to network and address questions and concerns. In addition, vendors may be present to talk and perform presentations on their equipment.

The SUG Users List is where all communications are disseminated for system operation. Contact Kelsey Hetrick to be added to the list and receive information about dates and times.

Jack Lewis Safety Fund Grant Opportunity

The Jack Lewis Safety Fund provides up to \$50,000 per year in grants for radio equipment. VFDs may be eligible to apply to the grant for additional funding.

The Jack Lewis Safety Fund is a philanthropic fund established in 2018 in honor Jack K. Lewis, M.D. Lewis was a highly accomplished individual in both his professional and volunteer careers. He worked closely with emergency services, and his memorial grant hopes to continue that work.

The grant supports police, fire, or EMT departments in second-class Nebraska and Iowa Communities (second-class communities are defined as towns, villages, or other municipalities with five thousand or fewer residents).

If you would like to apply to the grant, please visit the [Jack Lewis Safety Fund page at the Omaha Community Foundation Website](#) (a QR code is available below). There, you can download the application from the section "Application Details."



Grants can be requested for equipment, personal protection gear, or training purposes. The maximum grant amount considered is \$50,000, and the average grant distributed is approximately \$10,000. Priority is given to requests with committed dollars raised in the local community.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Entities eligible to apply for this grant program include municipalities, public, tax-exempt organizations as defined by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or those working with a 501(c)(3) fiscal agent who can receive funds on their behalf.
- Applicants from previous years may apply.
- Applicants' policies and practices must be in alignment with the following non-discrimination clause: The applicant organization does not discriminate in hiring practices or service provision to clients and/or customers based on race, ethnicity, religious preference, age, mental, emotional, or physical] ability/disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, military service, or gender.

(The requirements listed above are copied verbatim from the [Jack Lewis Safety Fund page on the Omaha Community Foundation Website.](#))

Future Grant Opportunities

The legislature and Governor Pillen have allocated an additional \$2,000,000 for continuing the VFD SRS Radio Project into FY2025. The SRS expects to open up further applications after July 1st, and selection will follow a similar process to the original round.

Grant Conditions

The following is a reminder of the conditions of the FY24 VFD Radio Grant.

- The VFD is expected to perform monthly testing from the department and dispatch center. Monthly testing involves powering on the SRS Radio Kit and speaking with the local PSAP.
- Radios are to remain the property of the State.
- VFDs are expected to maintain inventory tags on the radios.
- Grantees will be required to sign a document and show identification to receive their equipment.

Thank You!

Thank you for your patience as we continue to receive, prepare, and distribute equipment. We look forward to providing your requested SRS-capable radios soon.

Regards,

Kelsey C. Hetrick - Systems Coordinator
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For additional details and updates please visit <https://cio.nebraska.gov/network-serv/publicsafety/index.html> and locate the “State of Nebraska Volunteer Fire Departments – Radio Grant Information” button on the page.