

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.

Motorola Equipment Delivery Delay

Due to manufacturer delays, Motorola equipment is not currently available. Current delivery to the SRS is scheduled for the end of April. All March classes have been canceled due to this delivery issue. This may also affect the April 8th and 9th training sessions in Dixon and O'Neill. We will continue updates through this newsletter and [the SRS website](#).

If you were registered for any of the March training dates, you will need to register for a different date when they become available. We will reschedule all the canceled sessions when equipment becomes available. Further registrations for training won't be possible until we have received enough equipment to be able to fulfill the orders.

Some radios may be delivered in late April. Because of this, we are doing our best to secure equipment delivery for the Gering, Bridgeport, and Hershey training dates on April 15th, 16th, and 17th respectively. These sessions are dependent on equipment delivery.

Those getting 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.

Current Training Schedule

Date and Time	Availability	Location	Equipment Available
March 14 th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	CANCELED	Southwest Rural Fire Protection District 705 W Burnham St, Lincoln, NE 68522	Kenwood and Motorola
March 19 th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	CANCELED	Kearney Volunteer Fire Department Fire Training Grounds 4300 Piper Ave, Kearney, NE 68847	Kenwood and Motorola
March 21 st 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	CANCELED	Arlington Rural Fire District 425 N 4th St, Arlington, NE 68002	Kenwood and Motorola
March 25 th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	CANCELED	Schuyler Fire and Rescue 302 E 16th, Schuyler, NE 68661	Kenwood and Motorola
March 26 th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	CANCELED	Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department 578 Mohawk St, Syracuse, NE 68446	Kenwood and Motorola
April 8 th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	CANCELED	Dixon Volunteer Fire Department 105 1st St, Dixon, NE 68732	Kenwood and Motorola
April 9 th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	CANCELED	O'Neill Volunteer Fire Department 304 S 4th St, O'Neill, NE 68763	Kenwood and Motorola

April 15 th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Full	Gering Volunteer Fire Department 1025 M St, Gering, NE 69341	Kenwood and Motorola
April 16 th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Full	Bridgeport Volunteer Fire Department 1621 S. Main Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336	Kenwood and Motorola
April 17 th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Full	Hershey Volunteer Fire Department 117 Railroad St, Hershey, NE 69143	Kenwood and Motorola
April 23 rd 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Pending	Aurora Fire Department 906 13th Street Aurora, NE 68818	Kenwood and Motorola
April 25 th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Pending	Plattsmouth Volunteer Fire Department 127 N 5th St, Plattsmouth, NE 68048	Kenwood and Motorola

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.

Additional Radios Provided

We're excited to announce that as of January 2024, the SRS Radio Grant has remaining funds to purchase a second round of radios for VFDs. There is no need to reapply. Existing applications have gone through the same selection process that was used in the first round, and acceptance letters have been sent.

The following VFDs have been awarded radios in the second round:

Round 2 Radio Grant Awardees	
Ainsworth Fire and Rescue Department	Milford Volunteer Fire Department
Amherst Volunteer Fire Department	Morrill Volunteer Fire Department
Bellwood Volunteer Fire Department	Murray Fire and Rescue
Bushnell Fire Department	Neligh Volunteer Fire Department
Elba Fire and Rescue	Nickerson Volunteer Fire Department
Harrison Volunteer Fire Department	Oxford Volunteer Fire Department
Hay Springs Volunteer Fire Department	Sidney Volunteer Fire Department
Linwood Volunteer Fire Department	Waverly Fire and Rescue Department
Louisville Volunteer Fire and Rescue	Wynot Rural Fire Department

All equipment distributed this round will be delivered in cases.

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. The next meeting is scheduled for March 8th.

Future Grant Opportunities

LB1275 has been introduced and is intended to provide additional funding for the grant. Please let your representative in the state legislature know if you would like to see the funding passed.

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,

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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.