

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.

New Training Sessions Available

New training sessions are now available! Please see the list of dates below to determine which location is best for you.

Date	Time	Location	Status	Equipment Type
6/20/24	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	2402 Silver Street Ashland, Nebraska 68003	Open	Motorola
6/25/24	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	127 N 5th St, Plattsmouth, NE 68048	Open	Motorola
6/27/24	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	425 N 4th St, Arlington, NE 68002	Open	Motorola and Kenwood

While these training sessions are open to all grantees, equipment will only be distributed to the following VFDs at this time:

Date	Agencies	Equipment Type
6/20/24	Ashland Ceresco Colon Mead Prague Valparaiso Weston Clarkson Schuyler	Motorola
6/25/24	Eagle Greenwood Nehawka Plattsmouth Peru	Motorola
6/27/24	Arlington Fort Calhoun Dodge Hooper Nickerson Waterloo	Motorola
	Craig Lyons Pender	Kenwood

VFDs who are not receiving equipment are welcome to attend the sessions with the knowledge that we will not have your equipment at the training. Those agencies will need to attend a later training date to pick up their kits. Seating will be limited and prioritized to those receiving their equipment, but we will work to provide space for additional departments who wish to attend.

SRS Radio Kits will be distributed during the training sessions.

VFDs that requested installations must contact their assigned vendor after receiving the equipment to schedule an installation time. You do not need to bring your VFD's vehicle for training but will need to take it to the vendor for installation.

Further training sessions to be announced.

Additional dates and locations, including July and August training sessions, will be posted in future updates.

New Website Content Available!

Stay up to date with the latest developments by regularly checking the SRS [website](#) for any changes ([link](#); QR code available below).



New videos on the kit setup and teardown procedures are now available.

Videos, instructions, and other information for utilizing your equipment are also featured on the website.

Obtaining a Desk Charger

VFDs that wish to purchase a different desk charger should speak with their radio vendor contacts. Additional charger purchases are not covered by the grant. Desk chargers cost approximately \$150 each.

Below are the part numbers for the desk chargers:

- **Motorola:** NNTN8860B
- **Kenwood:** KSC-52BK

Vehicle Charger Installation

94 departments have requested vehicle chargers and should only be working with their listed vendor to have the charger installed.

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.

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 public safety 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.

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. VFDs that did not receive equipment from the FY2024 grant funding will be prioritized.

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
kelsey.c.hetrick@nebraska.gov

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.