

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. It has been a busy couple of months, so we thought you would like to know about some of the work the project has completed and what the coming months will entail.

Training Now Available

The first “train the trainer” sessions, which provide insight into using the radios and prepare VFDs to train their volunteers, have been scheduled. More training sessions will be available in the coming months. If your department has been awarded equipment, you can register to attend a session [here](#). Sessions in May and June will be open to all departments whether or not they were awarded equipment.

Radio equipment will be delivered during training, with Kenwood equipment deliveries beginning in Quarter 1 2024 and Motorola equipment deliveries expected by early Q2 2024.

As we move forward, the OCIO expects to have all Kenwood equipment tagged and delivered by April 1st, 2024. Motorola radios will arrive in February, and training sessions for that equipment will be planned once it is received. By May 6th, the State Radio System plans to have all Motorola equipment tagged and delivered to installation vendors. Delivery currently depends on the manufacturer.

Training Schedule

Date and Time	Availability	Location	Equipment Available
February 20th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Registering	Dixon Volunteer Fire Department 105 1st St, Dixon, NE 68732	Kenwood
February 21st 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Registering	O’Neill Volunteer Fire Department 304 S 4th St, O’Neill, NE 68763	Kenwood
February 27 th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Full	Aurora Fire Department 906 13th Street Aurora, NE 68818	Kenwood
March 14th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Registering	Southwest Rural Fire Protection District 705 W Burnham St, Lincoln, NE 68522	Kenwood and Motorola
March 19th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Registering	Kearney Volunteer Fire Department Fire Training Grounds 4300 Piper Ave, Kearney, NE 68847	Kenwood and Motorola
March 21st 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Registering	Arlington Rural Fire District 425 N 4th St, Arlington, NE 68002	Kenwood and Motorola
March 25th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Registering	Schuyler Fire and Rescue 302 E 16th, Schuyler, NE 68661	Kenwood and Motorola
March 26th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Registering	Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department 578 Mohawk St, Syracuse, NE 68446	Kenwood and Motorola
April 8th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Registering	Dixon Volunteer Fire Department 105 1st St, Dixon, NE 68732	Kenwood and Motorola

April 9th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Registering	O’Neill Volunteer Fire Department 304 S 4th St, O’Neill, NE 68763	Kenwood and Motorola
April 15th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Registering	Gering Volunteer Fire Department 1025 M St, Gering, NE 69341	Kenwood and Motorola
April 16th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Registering	Bridgeport Volunteer Fire Department 809 Main Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336	Kenwood and Motorola
April 17th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Registering	Hershey Volunteer Fire Department 117 Railroad St, Hershey, NE 69143	Kenwood and Motorola
April 23rd 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Registering	Aurora Fire Department 906 13th Street Aurora, NE 68818	Kenwood and Motorola
April 25th 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Registering	Plattsmouth Volunteer Fire Department 127 N 5th St, Plattsmouth, NE 68048	Kenwood and Motorola

Additional dates and locations, including May and June training dates, 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.

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.