

La Luz Volunteer Fire Department

P.O. Box 147
La Luz, New Mexico 88337

April 12, 2001

Joe M. Allbaugh, Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency
16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727-8998

Dear Mr. Allbaugh,

Thank you for this opportunity to apply for funds from the Assistance To Firefighter Grant Program to improve our fire protection capabilities in our small rural community in southern New Mexico.

We are striving to provide the best fire protection we can and improve our ISO rating to lower insurance premiums for the residents of our community. In addition to lower insurance premiums, our funding from the New Mexico State Fire Fund will increase and firefighter safety will improve. If funded, we will be able to purchase a new Quick Attack Apparatus to meets our goals.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (505) 572-7334 or (505) 437-5445.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wayne M. Glidden
Fire Chief

Chief
Asst. Chief
Secretary

Wayne M. Glidden
Vern Sattelberg
Becky Erickson

Quick Attack Equal Safety and Savings

**La Luz Volunteer Fire Department
La Luz, New Mexico**

**Federal Emergency Management Agency
United States Fire Administration
ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER GRANT PROGRAM**

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Executive Summary:

The La Luz Fire Department provides fire protection to over 1500 residences in a 240 sq mile area. Striving to provide the best fire protection we can, we must do better to provide adequate and efficient fire protection to meet the needs of our customers and firefighters.

With the \$97,000 grant money we will purchase a new Quick Attack Apparatus with foam capability. This unit will have the capability to respond to structure fires, wildland fires, improve firefighter and patient safety during vehicle extrication. With the increased capabilities, we will be able to improve our ISO rating, lowering our customers' insurance premiums, increase firefighter safety and increase the funds we receive from the New Mexico State Fire Funds.

Introduction:

The La Luz Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1957 after members of the community of La Luz determined there was a need for a Fire Department. They started out in an old adobe, three wall building for a station and a used 1945 International pumper. The first new Class A pumper was purchased in 1961, replaced in 1985 with a used 1978 Ford WS Darley Class A pumper and finally replaced with a new 1999 HME Ferrara Class A in April 1999. The La Luz Fire Department also has a 1980 Ford 3000 gallon tanker, 1982 GMC Quick Attack, 1988 Ford Brush Truck and a 2000 Chevy Light Duty Rescue built by members of the department. We just completed the paper work March 27, 2001 on a 3-acre parcel of land donated for a new fire station and training site.

The La Luz Fire Department is an all-volunteer department consisting of men and women who also form the La Luz Volunteer Firefighter's Association. These men and women participate in fire suppression, rescue, fire prevention, equipment maintenance, public education, and fund raising. The Fundraiser consists of a mail out donation request that provided the association with a budget of \$4500 last year. This money was used to purchase training material, supplies, and fire prevention materials.

La Luz Fire District provides fire and rescue services for an area that includes a major Union Pacific Railroad Line, US Highways 54, 70 & 82, farms, single-family residences, an elementary school and an approach flight path to Holloman Air Force Base. During the past ten years, the La Luz Fire Department responded to three major forest fires, one F-117 Stealth Fighter crash and one Union Pacific Railroad derailment. The La Luz Fire Department responded to a total of 82 alarms in the year 2000.

Needs Statement:

The La Luz Fire District is responsible to provide fire protection and vehicle extrication to an area that covers over 100 sq miles. The district is made up of mostly rural desert land with a 9-mile stretch of each, Union Pacific Railroad and US 54-70 Highway that is currently under going major improvement to support the NAFTA routes. Due to the size of Otero County, New Mexico, there are remote areas of the county that have no established fire protection. The La Luz Volunteer Fire Department has the task of supplying fire suppression and extrication to one of these remote area 140 sq miles in size. This area also adds an additional 20 miles of both railroad and highway to our responsibility. The current Quick Attack apparatus used to provide fire suppression is twenty (20) years old and has limited capabilities. With the increased rail schedule and highway traffic, our calls for wildland fires and vehicle extrication calls have also increased. We need to replace the old Quick Attack unit with a new unit that will provide increased capabilities.

We currently have just the one 1982 unit that is not capable of off road usage, carries 300 gallons of water and pumps 250 GPM. This unit is used as a Quick Attack for all structure fires as well as supporting wildland fire and fire protection at vehicle accidents. We need to increase the pump capacity to 500 GPM to allow the unit to be added as a reserve pumper for ISO rating. Increase water capacity to 400 gallons, add four-wheel drive for use during wildland fire and add foam capability to enhance fire protection and firefighter safety at vehicle accidents with fuel spills.

Goals and Objectives:

Goal: To replace the La Luz Fire Department 1982 Quick Attack Unit with a new 2002 Quick Attack Unit that is more versatile.

Objectives:

- To purchase a new 2002 Quick Attack with a 500 GPM pump and 400 gallon water storage to assist with improving ISO rating from our current 7 rating to a 6 rating.
- To add Foam to increase fire extinguishment capabilities and to conserve water usage. Foam enables water to be more efficient at soaking into fuels and absorbing heat, which allows for less water to be used. This enables larger fires to be extinguished with less water.
- To increase wildland fire fighting capabilities by purchasing a 4 wheel drive vehicle.
- To protect rescue extrication personnel against fuel fires with the capability to apply foam coverage on spilled fuel areas.

Methodology:

The La Luz Fire Department, under the direction of Otero County Administration as Fiscal Agent, will adhere to the following method to ensure that the grant program will be implemented on time and within the established budget.

1. Advertise Specifications for Quick Attack Unit Bid within 30 days of fund approval.
2. Open and review bids to select manufacturer that meets apparatus specification and budget within 60 days of fund approval.
3. Award Bid to manufacturer within 90 days of fund approval.
4. Expect delivery of apparatus 180 days from bid award.
5. Provide apparatus training to members and place unit in service within 300 days of fund approval.

Evaluation:

This project will be evaluated three ways.

1. By requesting an ISO inspection to improve rating within one year of apparatus delivery.
2. By tracking the number of extrication calls that foam was applied to protect personnel against fuel spill fires.
3. By tracking the number of calls the apparatus responds to.

Quick Attack Apparatus Budget:

La Luz Fire Department	\$15,000
La Luz Firefighters' Association	\$ 3,000
<u>FEMA Grant</u>	<u>\$97,000</u>
Total	\$115,000