

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MEASURE Z EXPENDITURES

The Advisory Committee meets on each Thursday in March to review applications and its recommendations will go before the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors in April.

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

Agency Name: Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association

Mailing Address: P O Box 7014, Eureka CA. 95501

Contact Person: Rick Nicholson Title: President

Telephone: 707-786-9909 E-mail address: chief@ferndalefire.org

The estimated amount of Measure Z funding available for FY 2024-2025 is \$4.1 million.

1. AMOUNT OF MEASURE Z FUNDING REQUESTED FOR FY 2024-2025: \$ 2.4 million (not including \$1,000,000 allocated by the BOS)

Summary of Expenses:

| <u>Item</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>% of total</u> |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|
| Salaries (wages) | _____ | _____ |
| Benefits | _____ | _____ |
| Overhead and Occupancy (Administrative, Rent, Utilities, Phones, etc.) | <u>\$270,000</u> | <u>11%</u> |
| Equipment/Supplies/Services | <u>\$2,130,000</u> | <u>89%</u> |
| Transportation/Travel | _____ | _____ |
| Fixed Assets | _____ | _____ |
| | <u>\$2,400,000</u> | <u>100%</u> |

2. ENTITY TYPE -- Please check appropriate box.

- Humboldt County Department
- Contract Service Provider to Humboldt County
- Local Government Entity
- Private Service Provider
- Non-Profit Service Provider
- Other, Describe: Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association

3. Is this application a renewal or related to a project that has been funded by Measure Z in the past?
(check one) Yes No

If you checked "yes" please include the following:

1: a report detailing results from the most recent year the project was funded, and:

2: a completed Staffing Report detailing when the funded positions were filled during the most recent year you received funding for this project.

*See the Required Attachments Section on Page 3 of this application for more details

4. Describe how the scope of your proposal fits the intent of Measure Z. Specifically, how will it maintain and improve public safety and essential services, as described on the previous page?

The Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association (HCFCA) is seeking funding for unmet firefighting response equipment, essential services, and apparatus for fire agencies in Humboldt County. Even though HCFCA's 23-24 Measure Z application was ranked 1 by the Measure Z Citizens Advisory Committee, last year's shortfall in allocations led the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to significantly cut the request and no requested equipment purchases were possible as only Dispatch and planning needs were covered by the \$525,000 allotment. The HCFCA was assured by the Board of Supervisors that the request would be funded at a later date if there were any leftover funds in the 23-24 Measure Z cycle, that did not happen. The \$1.8 million in approved rollover funds were already allocated to building projects that were delayed due to construction scheduling.

HCFCA surveys all 38 fire agencies in Humboldt County annually to determine their critical needs and submits a cohesive application that succinctly and efficiently represents all fire agencies. Per the County's own information regarding Measure Z goals, "volunteer fire departments and firefighters play critical roles in protecting life and property here in Humboldt County. Additional resources will help maintain rural fire and ambulance protection services, allowing our first responders to better - and more safely - protect County residents". These funding requests will be utilized to directly support this stated goal for Measure Z funds as approved by our county voters.

5. Please provide a brief description of the proposal for which you are seeking funding.

Humboldt County's volunteer/rural Fire agencies need immediate funding in order to continue to provide first responder emergency response services, as the shortfall in funding last year's application, even with the guaranteed \$1,000,000 allocation for 24-25, only covered Dispatch and planning costs and none of the equipment needs of the fire agencies. Measure Z funding would be immediately applied in four critical areas to ensure that there will not be a reduction or degradation in current fire service responses.

First, HCFCA is seeking funding to purchase apparatus and equipment for volunteer/rural firefighters to bring them up to a nationally recognized minimum level of safety and function. Humboldt County is served by 38 individual fire departments, with 36 of these being made up entirely of volunteers. The members of these organizations, due to extremely limited revenue sources and resources, struggle to provide safe adequate response services to their communities. Funding for emergency response apparatus such as the proposed Type 6 "Quick Attacks" is paramount for first response and initial attack operations. Currently, the county is way behind in appropriate apparatus replacement planning and implementation. Many of the emergency agencies are responding in vehicles that are too old to be safety compliant and are incurring increasing maintenance costs. Instead of continuing to rely on the aging and dysfunctional vehicles that are currently in operation, this funding will assist with the necessary replacement process. Apparatus replacement is an essential ongoing need that is crucial for both first responder safety and operational effectiveness. There are also unmet and ongoing equipment needs, including departments whose Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was not replaced in previous funding cycles. The five years of Measure Z funding has helped, but there are significant needs that still must be addressed. This section of the application includes structural and wildland firefighting PPE, fire hose, vehicle extrication tools, thermal imaging cameras and various other firefighting tools and emergency medical response equipment.

Secondly, HCFCA is proposing a budget that supports crucial firefighter and first responder training. Training is critical to maintain and increase the safety compliance, effectiveness, and skill, of the personnel that respond to emergencies in Humboldt County. This will include base-level training for new recruits as well as ongoing and advanced training for established responders and officers. Training funding will assure that Humboldt County has qualified volunteer responders, while addressing the recruitment and retention issues posed when volunteers are expected to pay for training.

Thirdly, HCFCA is requesting continuation of funding for dispatch fees incurred by all-volunteer fire departments. Currently Cal Fire, under a contract agreement, performs emergency dispatch services for nearly all of the fire agencies within Humboldt County. These dispatch and communication services are a key component for the successful response of volunteer/rural fire agencies to emergencies within the County. Without a reliable, unified and dedicated communications system, first responders would not receive timely notification of emergencies and would be unable to respond to calls for assistance. These funds would be utilized to directly support and maintain these dispatch services, ensuring that there is no disruption or lapse in critical communications and emergency services.

Fourthly, funds are requested to cover administrative overhead including workers compensation insurance, physicals, firefighter health and wellness programs, and continuing our planning work conducted by Humboldt County's Planning Department with LAFCO to facilitate annexations, agreements, mergers, and strategic planning to resolve the operational and funding issues facing our rural fire agencies.

6. How have you developed a plan for sustainability, including diversification of funding sources, for your proposal to carry on without reliance on future Measure Z funds? Please provide detail of your plan for sustainability here.

HCFCA, in collaboration with planning partners, is working to establish long-term sustainability by securing funding through fire district and CSA formation and expansion and by identifying other strategies to sustain these critical services into the future. The allocation of a portion of Measure Z funds towards County staff to assist fire agencies in the process of becoming formal fire-related districts and/or annexing goodwill service areas, lays the groundwork for independence and financial sustainability. In addition, fire-related districts are official government agencies that are eligible for grants such as the annual Federal Assistance to Firefighters grant program and pre- and post-disaster grant programs funded through FEMA. Currently, many fire agencies in the County are not official government organizations and therefore are ineligible to receive some grants and other types of funding and assistance. They also receive very little if no tax revenue. Assisting these agencies in forming districts would solve this problem.

7. If this request is for the continuation or expansion of an existing program/service, what is the current source of funding for that program/service?

The components of the Humboldt County Fire Chief's request for Measure Z funding are a continuation of an existing program, including the funding of communication dispatch fees, continuation of the funding of the formal planning efforts with County planning partners, and funding to continue to address PPE and fire hose needs within departments. All have been supported by Measure Z funding in past funding cycles.

8. If you are awarded Measure Z funds, how do you plan to leverage these funds to secure additional grants, contributions or community support?

As noted above, funds obtained from Measure Z would be used to establish fire agencies that are officially recognized local governmental entities. In the past years, the County has matched Measure Z funds with existing funding allocated to this effort up to \$10,000. The existing funds are limited and are not sufficient for achieving the goals explained in this proposal. Leveraging the two funding sources will ensure significant progress toward achieving the desired goals. In addition, hundreds of hours of volunteer fire department time will be contributed to the work described in this proposal as an In-Kind match. Due to the past Measure Z application process the HCFCA was not able to use funds as a grant match because the final allocation amount was not known. With the addition of \$1,000,000 of guaranteed funding the HCFCA can now utilize a

portion of this funding as a grant match to leverage additional funds and make the allocation go further. The HCFCFA is also working with Senator Mike McGuire's office to bring \$2,000,000 to support apparatus replacement specifically for Rural Southern Humboldt. This funding will significantly enhance the contributions of Measure Z and would not be possible without the ongoing support of Measure Z funding for the project.

9. Will this proposal require new or expanded activity on the part of another entity to be fully functional and effective? If so, name that entity and describe what that participation would look like.

The Association has established a regional approach to this year's request to suit the needs of the vast area of Humboldt County. We narrowed our focus to three regions North Bay, Eel River Valley, And Southern Humboldt. This is to ensure all agencies' needs are met. Humboldt County is served by 38 individual fire departments, with 36 of these being made up entirely of volunteers. The members of these organizations, due to extremely limited revenue sources and resources, struggle to provide safe, adequate response services to their communities. Even after years of Measure Z funding, there are unmet and ongoing equipment needs, including departments whose PPE was not replaced in previous funding cycles due to prioritizing the more significant situations first. If awarded, these funds would be utilized to purchase additional needed structural and wildland firefighting PPE, fire hose, vehicle extrication tools, thermal imaging cameras (TIC), and automatic external defibrillators (AED).

10. Are there recurring expenses associated with this application, such as personnel cost?
(check one) Yes No

If you checked yes, detail those expenses here. Please note, the Citizens' Advisory Committee in May, 2023, adopted a stance that it would not recommend funding for new, ongoing county positions:

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

Include the following with your application, making sure to **limit your responses to one page, per section.** Responses longer than the maximum may not be read by committee members or considered as part of your application

Prior Year Results: If your request is a continuation of a program funded with Measure Z in prior fiscal years, please provide the results of implementation. (one page maximum)

Program Budget: Please utilize the template provided on the following pages. This will need to be updated if your agency is approved for funding.


Staffing Report: Please utilize the template provided on the following pages to report on the months that funded positions were filled during the most recent year you received Measure Z funding.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above statements and all attachments are true and correct

DATE

February 20, 2024

SIGNATURE



Humboldt County Measure Z Advisory Committee • Fiscal Year 2024-25 Application for Funding

SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETE APPLICATION TO:

Humboldt County Citizens' Advisory Committee on *Measure Z* Expenditures
c/o County Administrative Office
825 Fifth Street, Suite 112
Eureka, CA 95501-1153

Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association Prior Year Results 23-24

Allocation 23-24 was limited to \$525,000 which could only cover Dispatch and planning.

Note: The \$1.8 million rolled over was already allocated to prior year items that were delayed due to ordering backlogs or building projects delayed due to materials and construction backlogs.

Fire services planning team support

This work continues to make progress towards changes that are or will support the sustainable delivery and improvement of fire and rescue services to communities in need and includes the following:

1. Providing technical assistance to the Salmon Creek VFD for fire district formation
2. Providing technical assistance to both the Garberville FPD and Arcata FPD in annexation of current out-of-district response areas
3. Organize and facilitate discussions regarding the North Bay study area (CSA 4) and the Redwood/Maple Creek study area

County fire dispatch

1. Funding of CalFire dispatch services for local government fire departments

Allocated from 22-23 funding rolled over:

Building project funding

2. Assist with the funding of a new fire station facility in Shelter Cove
3. Assist with materials for the new building to house the Southern Humboldt Technical Rescue Team.

Continued support in providing personal protective equipment (PPE) and Fire/Rescue equipment

1. The highest priority for funding continues to be maintaining an acceptable level of service to our communities through meeting minimum requirements for compliant personal protective equipment and fire/rescue equipment.
2. The 22-23 expenditures included structure and wildland PPE, wildland shelters and replacement breathing apparatus. In addition, we were able to complete a 3-year project to provide reliable and up to date vehicle extrication rescue equipment (jaws of life) to all fire departments which provide emergency response to main thoroughfares throughout our county.
3. Many of our fire departments do not have the needed generators to provide the required electrical needs during times of power outage. With the 21-22 funding cycle we began a multi-year project to provide the needed generators and have continued that project with 22-23 funding.
4. An additional multi-year project underway is providing communications equipment to meet the federal radio interoperability needs for current compatibility with all first responder jurisdictions (fire, EMS and law enforcement). The 22-23 funding has provided an initial start on this project through the purchase of a portion of the needed mobile and portable radios and repeater site upgrade equipment.

HCFCA Measure Z Fiscal Year 2024-25 Application Proposed Budget

| | |
|--|--|
| Agency Name: HCFCA | Email Address: chief@ferndalefire.org |
| Coordinator/Contact: Rick Nicholson | Phone: 707-786-9909 |

| Descriptions | Requested Budget | Current Quarter Costs | Total of Prior Quarter Costs | Remaining Balance |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
|--------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|

A. Personnel Costs

| | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Title: N/A Salary (separate from benefits cost) | \$0.00 | | | \$0.00 |
| Benefits | | | | \$0.00 |
| Duties Description: | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Title: N/A Salary (separate from benefits cost) | \$0.00 | | | \$0.00 |
| Benefits | | | | \$0.00 |
| Duties Description: | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Title: N/A Salary (separate from benefits cost) | \$0.00 | | | \$0.00 |
| Benefits | | | | \$0.00 |
| Duties Description: | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Title: Salary (separate from benefits cost) | \$0.00 | | | \$0.00 |
| Benefits | | | | \$0.00 |
| Duties Description: | | | | |
| | | | | |
| <i>Salaries Subtotal</i> | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| <i>Benefits Subtotal</i> | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total Personnel: | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |

B. Overhead and Occupancy Costs (Rent, Utilities, Phones, Administrative etc.)

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Title: Firefighter Health and Wellness Support Description: Workers Comp Insurance and CAL OSHA Physicals | \$282,000.00 | | | |
| Title: | | | | |
| Description: | | | | |
| Title: | | | | |
| Description: | | | | |
| Title: | | | | |
| Description: | | | | |
| Total Overhead and Occupancy Costs: | \$282,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$282,000.00 |

C. Equipment/Supplies/Services (Equipment, Supplies and Services should be separate)

| | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Title: Equipment (Please be detailed regarding the equipment you plan to . These expenses are generally over \$200, longer useful life) | | | | |
| Title: SCBA | | | | |
| Description: Breathing Apparatus | \$200,000.00 | | | |
| Title: Radios | | | | |
| Description: Portable & Mobile to meet fed digital transition | \$310,000.00 | | | |
| Title: Protective Equipment | | | | |
| Description: Firefighting protective equipment | \$460,730.00 | | | |
| Title: Wildland shelters | | | | |
| Description: Emergency fire shelters for wildland incidents | \$36,000.00 | | | |
| Title: Fire Net Repeaters | | | | |
| Description: Radio system repeaters | \$220,000.00 | | | |
| Title: Regional Rescue Team Equipment | | | | |
| Description: Ropes, Harnesses, Hardware, Apparatus Upgrades | \$60,000.00 | | | |
| Title: Fire Hose and Accessories | | | | |
| Description: Structure and Wildland Hose, Brass, Hose Packs, Hose Clamps, | \$114,540.00 | | | |
| Title: North Bay Extrication Equipment | | | | |
| Description: Jaws of Life and Supporting Equipment | \$80,000.00 | | | |
| Title: EMS Equipment | | | | |
| Description: Medical Bags, O2 Tanks, EMS Supplies | \$30,000.00 | | | |
| Title: Gas Meters | | | | |
| Description: Multi Gas Meters for Hazmat and Gas Emergencies | \$20,000.00 | | | |
| Title: Wildland Firefighting Equipment | | | | |
| Description: Web gear, Hand Tools, Flashlights | \$16,730.00 | | | |
| <i>Equipment Subtotal:</i> | <i>\$1,548,000.00</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> | <i>\$1,548,000.00</i> |
| Title: Supplies | | | | |
| Description: (Please be detailed. These expenses are generally under \$200, | | | | |
| Title: | | | | |
| Description: | | | | |
| Title: | | | | |
| Description: | | | | |
| Title: | | | | |
| Description: | | | | |
| <i>Supplies Subtotal:</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> |
| Title: Services/Other Operational Costs | | | | |
| Description: (Please be detailed. These expenses are generally professional or contracted services, or | | | | |
| Title: CalFire Dispatch | | | | |
| Description: Dispatch services contract with CalFire | \$259,000.00 | | | |
| Title: Planning | | | | |
| Description: County planning services for annexation and consolidations | \$91,000.00 | | | |
| Title: Equipment & Apparatus Mandated testing, Inspections or Maintai | | | | |
| Description: Mandated Testing, Inspections & Maintenance on SCBA, Jaws of | \$175,000.00 | | | |
| Title: Training and Training Support | | | | |
| Description: Mandated Firefighting, EMS, Extrication, Suicide Prevention, Trai | \$90,000.00 | | | |

HCFCA Measure Z Fiscal Year 2024-25 Application Proposed Budget

| | |
|--|--|
| Agency Name: HCFCFA | Address: chief@ferndalefire.org |
| Coordinator/Contact: Rick Nicholson | Phone: 707-786-9909 |

| Descriptions | Requested Budget | Current Quarter Costs | Total of Prior Quarter Costs | Remaining Balance | |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Title: Grant Writing Assistance | | | | | |
| Description: Service contract for regional grant writing assistance | \$50,000.00 | | | | |
| Title: | | | | | |
| Description: | | | | | |
| Title: | | | | | |
| Description: | | | | | |
| Title: | | | | | |
| Description: | | | | | |
| Title: | | | | | |
| Description: | | | | | |
| Title: | | | | | |
| Description: | | | | | |
| <i>Services/Other Subtotal:</i> | | \$665,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$665,000.00 |
| Total Equipment/Supplies/Services: | | \$2,213,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,213,000.00 |

D. Transportation/Travel (Local and Out-of-County should be separate)

| | | | | | |
|---|--------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Title: Local Travel | | | | | |
| Description: Describe local travel and connection to your project | \$0.00 | | | | |
| Title: Out of County Travel | | | | | |
| Description: Describe out of county travel and connection to your project | \$0.00 | | | | |
| Total Transportation/Travel Costs: | | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |

E. Fixed Assets (According to your agency's definition of a fixed asset)

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Title: Apparatus | | | | | |
| Description: Type 6 wildland fire trucks, Carlota Water Tender: for SoHum dep | \$620,000.00 | | | | |
| Title: Building Projects | | | | | |
| Description: ERV classroom for Eel River Valley & Bridgeville Station | \$285,000.00 | | | | |
| Title: | | | | | |
| Description: | \$0.00 | | | | |
| Total Fixed Asset Costs: | | \$905,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$905,000.00 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Totals | \$3,400,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$3,400,000.00 |
| Requested Budget | Costs | Current Quarter Costs | Prior Quarter Costs | Remaining Balance |

