

**Financial Assistance Review Committee (FARC) Quarterly Meeting
 Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF) Meeting
 Embassy Suites - Richmond
 July 31, 2019
 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

AGENDA

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Administration Staff:	Staff/Other Guests:
Kevin Dillard		Luke Parker	George Lindbeck
JC Bolling		Linwood Pulling	Dan Norville
Donna Hurst			
Curtis Sheets			
Bruce Stratton			
Joe Trigg			

Topic/Subject		Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
I. Call To Order - Kevin Dillard, Chair	Kevin called the meeting to order and welcomed all of the FARC members to our quarterly meeting.	No further action is required
II. FARC Chair Report	Joe Trigg missed our last meeting due to an injury. Kevin welcomed him back and he has recovered well. Kevin and FARC wished Linwood a belated Happy Birthday. The fall 2019 grant cycle opens tomorrow, August 1, 2019 and closes September 16, 2019. Every year, FARC elects a chairman for our committee. Kevin was nominated and unanimously re-elected for another 1 year term. Kevin reminded FARC that we have a RSAF workshop at OEMS tomorrow, August 1, 2019 beginning at 9:00 AM.	No further action is required
III. Review of May Meeting Minutes	Kevin made a motion that the minutes from the May 1, 2019 FARC Quarterly Meeting be approved.	No further action is required
IV. Grants Unit Report	This information can be found in the OEMS Quarterly Report to the State EMS Advisory Board dated Friday, August 2, 2019. The Spring 2019 RSAF grant deadline was March 15, 2019. OEMS received 148 grant applications requesting \$18,784,335.39 in funding. OEMS awarded 91 agencies a total of \$4,663,683.08 in grant funding. Approximately 61% of the agencies received awards.	No further action is required

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	<p>The following agency categories received grant awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 88 EMS Agencies awarded \$4,530,157.91 • 3 Non-EMS Agencies awarded \$133,525.17 <p>Virginia's 11 EMS Council Regions received the following total amounts of funding this cycle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Ridge EMS Council - \$409,310.25 • Central Shenandoah EMS Council - \$144,687.19 • Lord Fairfax EMS Council - \$729,538.34 • Northern Virginia EMS Council - \$38,576.09 • Old Dominion EMS Alliance - \$413,975.02 • Peninsulas EMS Council - \$180,885.78 • Rappahannock EMS Council - \$168,806.94 • Southwestern Virginia EMS Council - \$844,331.18 • Thomas Jefferson EMS Council - \$486,693.54 • Tidewater EMS Council - \$385,511.94 • Western Virginia EMS Council - \$861,366.81. <p>Agencies received RSAF grants to purchase the following equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chest Compression Devices - \$270,625.94 • Communications Equipment - \$4,748.00 • Computer Hardware - \$128,039.83 • Cots & Load Systems - \$399,974.88 • Defibrillators - \$1,110,615.91 • Emergency Medical Dispatch - \$24,225.17 • Laryngoscopes - \$19,086.17 • Extrication Equipment - \$31,010.13 • Multi-Jurisdictional or Agency Projects - \$25,207.20 • Recruitment & Retention - \$2,795.97 • Stair Chairs - \$11,520.00 • Training Equipment - \$24,982.28 • Quick Response Vehicles - \$27,500.00 • Type I Ambulances - \$2,403,351.60 • Type III Ambulances - \$180,000.00 	

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	<p>For the December 2018 grant cycle, Luke did an analysis and looked at how many words were in each reviewers comments. The average was between 15 and 20 words per comment. Eight percent of FARC's comments were 1-12 words and eighty percent were less than eight words. FARC had previously been instructed to limit their words to a minimum - ex. Request Justified. When an agency is inquiring about why their grant was not funded and they are requesting a copy of the graders comments, they contact the grants unit. We will make a copy of the graders comments. Two or three words do not give the agency a lot to go on and can't justify why their grant was not funded. They don't understand how the comment will state the request is justified but they are given a grade of 3, 4 or 5. Luke encouraged FARC to justify their grades and to explain why/why not a grant was/was not funded. Even a grade of 1 should have a good justification as to why they were successful in obtaining the grant. Luke did an analysis of the grant reviewers' comments for the June 2019 grant cycle. This time the comments were up 43%. Over half of the comments were 20+ words. Luke wanted to provide guidelines for comment writing and listed 5 that he thought FARC should follow when grading.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Address the application and not the applicant 2) Quote and or cite at least 2 specific sections of the application as a cross reference 3) Connect a specific section to the grade 4) Write in the 3rd person 5) Synthesize the perspectives <p>Luke went on to elaborate what each of these mean and gave examples. He will put this into a document that we can give to the current and new FARC members. This will assist and help them to better write and articulate their comments.</p>	
<p>V. Eligible Equipment Discussion</p>	<p>Kevin made a list of some items that he wanted to discuss with FARC. Some of these items have been supported by some members of FARC while other members don't support them. Kevin wants to make sure we're all on the same page and get the reasoning why some are for or against certain items.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Engines - We have had requests for replacing engines in ambulances. If we support this, where does it stop? Will they then start requesting we replace transmissions? At this point in time, FARC doesn't think this is a good use of State funds. Do we want to have the Transportation Committee weigh in on this? Would they even be willing to weigh in on this? At the present time, the Emergency Ops unit grades this type of request. 2) Ambulances for Non-Licensed Agencies - According to the Code of Virginia, an agency must be licensed as a transport agency in order to receive grant funding for an ambulance. 	<p>No further action is required</p> <p>Luke said he would talk with Jimmy Burch, Program Supervisor, and see if the Transportation Committee would be willing or interested in grading things related to ambulances but not necessarily the ambulance itself.</p> <p>No further action is required</p>

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	<p>3) Re-chassis - There are a couple of agencies that re-chassis ambulances successfully. We need to look at these requests on an individual basis. The cost of a re-chassis versus a new ambulance comes into question. Is it cheaper if we just have to replace the chassis versus having to fix the box too? If you have to do both, it's probably cheaper to buy a new unit. We use to have a State Ambulance Contract and that came up for discussion. The problem is that we can't regulate an agency and force them to buy off the State Ambulance Contract. It didn't work in the past and it's doubtful it would work again. How can we keep the prices of the new ambulances from going higher and higher? Do we want to have the Transportation Committee weigh in on grading the re-chassis? Would they even be willing to weigh in on this? At the present time, the Emergency Ops unit grades this type of request. It is our understanding that the Transportation Committee only wants to grade ambulances. We have agreed to ask Jimmy Burch who oversees this committee if that would be something they would be willing to do.</p> <p>4) ATV's - There are agencies that cover areas that are inaccessible by ambulance. Therefore, ATV's are a necessity to help them reach the patient. Are there other grants available to these agencies? Sometimes, all the agency knows about grants being available is the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund. We need to get the word out that there are other grants available for specialized equipment.</p> <p>5) Boats - some agencies are located close to a body of water. One of our agencies is actually based solely on the water, and this is their only means of doing EMS. With the proper training and equipment, this can be very beneficial. In most cases though, it is deemed as not being a priority. Are there other grants available that they could apply for the get this?</p> <p>6) Ballistic Equipment/bullet proof vests and helmets - We are starting to see these requests more frequently due to mass shootings and violent crimes. We don't have the data or statistics we need to make a good decision of what constitutes a funding need. Once we open that box and start funding these items, it will be hard to close.</p> <p>7) Recruitment and Retention - Again, we don't have a lot of data or statistics to go on. Whether they are funded for billboards, newspaper ads, TV commercials or radio, we have no idea what has been successful or how many recruits an agency got from the funding of a recruitment and retention campaign. We need to figure out how to capture that information. It would help FARC to better determine if this particular campaign was successful. To capture this information, we would probably have to put certain conditions on the grant and ask that they report back to OEMS how many contacts they had, how many people joined the agency, how many became certified, what was successful and what was not.</p> <p>8) Power cots/Power load systems - The code requires an agency to have a cot retention system. The power load system is not a required item on an ambulance. With a decrease in volunteers, the EMS agencies have an older population running most of</p>	<p>Luke will ask Jimmy Burch, who oversees the Transportation Committee, if that would be something they would be willing to weigh in on.</p> <p>No further action is required</p> <p>No further action is required</p> <p>No further action is required</p> <p>No further action is required</p> <p>No further action is required</p>

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	<p>the calls and there is documentation that the power load system has dramatically decreased back injuries. It's beneficial to an agency in most cases. Joe told us that a chiropractor who ran with his agency part-time had stated the power load system had hurt his business. It's not required equipment but the benefits certainly are there. FARC discussed whether or not the power load system should be in a category by itself? It was agreed that when putting in for a power load system and a cot, these should be separate line items or requests. We have a price list on our website. The cot and power load system are priced individually. They are not combined. Again, it should be graded on an individual need or basis.</p> <p>9) Mental Health - This is not a new concept to EMS. We have had the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) in place for years. CISM has been very successful and the mental health classes are an extension of this type of training. FARC is divided on whether to fund this versus an AED that has proven life-saving capabilities. Again, we just don't have the data or statistics to make a good decision.</p> <p>10) Drones - This is pretty new technology and can be used to find wrecks, wildfires and a host of other things. Although the technology is new and innovative, it probably won't show up on the list of equipment required on an ambulance. It's cool to have, but is it considered essential to doing EMS? At this time, probably not.</p> <p>We have had requests from the grantees for ALS equipment like ventilators, ultrasound machines and a lot of other equipment. Kevin asked Dr. Lindbeck to weigh in on the merits of the requests and if they are supported medically by the State. Dr. Lindbeck said that it depends on what type of agency we're dealing with. It depends on the transport times. A lot of jurisdictions have less than 7 minutes transport time. For some agencies, it takes 30 minutes or more to transport a patient to a medical facility. These items are very expensive and the transport time in most cases don't merit the funding. Kevin asked Dr. Lindbeck if he would mind reviewing specialized grant requests, especially ALS equipment, so he can give us a different perspective from the medical field. He said he would be happy to do that.</p>	<p>No further action is required</p> <p>No further action is required</p> <p>Dr. Lindbeck said he would be happy to review our ALS specialized equipment requests for us.</p>
VI. Reminder of Important Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 1, 2019 @ 9 AM - RSAF Workshop for our FARC members at OEMS. • August 1, 2019 - RSAF Fall Grant Cycle (December 2019) opens • August 15, 2019 @ 1 PM - RSAF Technical Assistance Webinar • September 16, 2019 @ 5 PM - RSAF Fall Grant Cycle closes 	No further action is required
VII. Unfinished Business	There is no unfinished business	No further action is required
VIII. New Business	When an agency applies for a grant, each line item or request has to cost a minimum of \$500.00. If it's less than \$500.00, the item will not be reviewed. The last few cycles, we have had a lot of requests for low dollar items. FARC feels the minimum price for an item should be higher than \$500.00. The consensus of FARC is that an agency should be able to afford these low dollar items. It was agreed to ask permission from the OEMS Executive Management to raise the minimum price an agency can ask for from \$500.00 to \$1,000 or more.	Luke Parker will ask the OEMS Executive Management about raising the minimum dollar amount that can be asked by the grantees.

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	<p>There was a discussion on whether or not we should limit the number of items an agency can ask for. We don't want to make the grant program restrictive. There are times that one request is dependent upon another which ties into another. If we limit the items they can apply for, it may do more harm than good. We will continue to monitor these requests.</p>	<p>No further action is required</p>
<p>IX. Next Meeting Date & Location</p>	<p>November 7, 2019 @ 1 PM - FARC Quarterly Meeting in Norfolk, Virginia</p>	<p>No further action is required</p>
<p>X. Adjournment</p>	<p>Kevin Dillard, Chair, made a motion to adjourn the meeting.</p>	<p>Meeting Adjourned</p>

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