

**Financial Assistance Review Committee (FARC)  
Quarterly Meeting - Hybrid (Virtual and In-Person)  
Embassy Suites - Richmond  
Richmond, Virginia  
May 6, 2021  
1:00 PM**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Administration Staff:	Staff/Other Guests:
Kevin Dillard, Chairman	Donna Hurst (excused)	Luke Parker	Dr. George Lindbeck
JC Bolling		Linwood Pulling	
Tracy Hanger			
Bruce Stratton			
Joe Trigg			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
<b>I. Call to order – Kevin Dillard, Chairman</b>	Kevin welcomed everyone to the FARC quarterly meeting. He thanked FARC for the work put in on the large number of grants we receive. He thanked the Grants Unit for putting on the Pre-Awards Technical Seminars. He reminded FARC that the grading period for the RSAF Spring Cycle will start on April 27 <sup>th</sup> and must be completed by May 27 <sup>th</sup> . We received 129 applications and 214 individual requests. We received about 15 million dollars in requested funding. There were only three Regional Councils that prioritized the top priorities in their area. We're not sure why that number was so low, but we will try to get the message out for the next grant cycle that if you want to prioritize, FARC would like to see that. Donna was not able to be with us today due to a death in the family. Please keep her and her family in your thoughts. Kevin also recognized Dr. Lindbeck for being with us today. He also thanked him for his help and input on the RSAF grants. Luke said we could have Dr. Lindbeck still comment broadly on the grants or assign him grants through his portal like we do for the Regional Councils or other technical graders.	Luke will see about getting Dr. Lindbeck assigned as a technical reviewer for the RSAF grants.
<b>II. Approval of March 2021 Meeting Minutes</b>	The March 5, 2021 FARC Quarterly Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.	No further action is required
<b>III. EMS Equipment Contract Follow-up Discussion</b>	Luke said that things have moved pretty quickly with the EMS equipment contract. It's probably because he had put a lot of research into the OEMS price list. We had enough discussion points to show DGS what we wanted. They assigned us a contract officer. Luke met with the contract officer and they are working on this for us. Having a contract for EMS	No further action is required

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	equipment will not only benefit RSAF applicants but everyone in Virginia wanting to purchase EMS equipment.	
IV Senior Compliance Specialist Presentation	We wanted to have the new Senior Compliance Specialist give a presentation today but there was a mix-up with the scheduling. We will try to get him to attend our next quarterly meeting and give us a presentation.	No further action is required
V. Review Process Follow-Up Discussion	Our RSAF Awards Meeting usually takes up one full day. We would meet in the morning to discuss and go over any questions FARC may have had about the current grants. We then met with the Regional EMS Councils, EMS Program Reps and the Technical graders. FARC would then go over any questions that came up during our meeting with the RSAF graders. At our quarterly meeting in March, instead of having our full day RSAF Awards Meeting, we decided to schedule specific appointments with our technical reviewers if they had questions or wanted to provide additional comments. Luke created a survey for the Technical Reviewers. He only received eight responses as of last night. Five of the responses were from the Regional Councils and three were OEMS graders. The survey asked for their name and email address. There were three questions that were asked on this survey. They are as follows: 1) Are you able to meet by phone or by web conference between May 31 <sup>st</sup> and June 4 <sup>th</sup> to answer questions about any of the grades or comments you submitted; 2) Do you feel you need to meet with FARC to discuss any of the applications to which you submitted grades and comments; 3) Please list the specific applications that you feel you need to discuss with FARC. If the person responds no to the second question, they are sent all the way to the end of the survey and they just need to provide comments. If they respond yes to question 2, then they are asked to complete additional questions. Those additional questions are: 1) Please list the specific applications you feel you need to discuss with FARC; 2) Please describe the discussion items for each of the applications listed in the previous response; 3) If the Office of EMS provides these discussion items to the FARC, do you feel these are necessary? Of the eight responses, seven responded yes to question 1 (are you able to meet with FARC) and one responded no. Four responded yes to question 2 (do you feel you need to meet with FARC) and four responded no. Of the four yes responses, three were Regional Councils and one was an OEMS technical grader. The three Regional Councils didn't list any applications. Two of them said they needed to see how FARC scored the application first and the other one said they wanted to see where the funding levels fell before they would know where the applications fell. One even stated they would have to wait and see who they have to defend. Kevin said that we need to get the message across to the Regional Councils that this isn't the time to drill FARC on the grading. We're just looking for a better justification on why an application needs funding. We have to educate them better on the purpose of FARC meeting with the graders.	No further action is required
VI. Reviewer Training Follow-Up Discussion	Luke said he can put together a Power Point presentation for FARC based off of some questions to stimulate discussion. The format of the Power Point would be similar to what the grants unit does for the Pre-Awards and Post Awards grant webinars for the EMS agencies. The first thing	Luke will put together PowerPoint Slides for the next FARC Quarterly Meeting in August.

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	<p>that Luke asks is what does FARC find most helpful and tactical? We have to consider whether or not this reviewer training is going to be for all technical reviewers or vocalize the issues for just the Regional Councils. FARC feels the technical graders are doing a good job and this training should be geared to the Regional Councils. A technical grader may grade an application with a grade of 3 while the OEMS Program Rep may give it a 3 or 4 and the Regional Council may give it a 1. There is a concern from the Regional Council graders that their grades do not translate to the FARC grades. The message needs to be disbursed that just because you get a certain grade at the regional level, it doesn't necessarily pair up with the entire grades for the State of Virginia. Luke will have this Power Point presentation ready by our quarterly meeting in August.</p>	
VII. Unfinished Business	<p>Kevin said we still need to work on the travel reimbursements. This was discussed at length at our March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. We are also going to try to have some kind of training every time we meet.</p>	No further action is required
VIII. New Business	<p>Luke stated there was some confusion this cycle with the mandate for ECPR. Emergency Ops put out that the deadline for this mandate is this coming January. That means this would be the last RSAF cycle that they could receive funding in order to implement these projects before that mandate goes into effect. A lot of the PSAT's and other constituents thought that RSAF wouldn't fund this. Luke told them they could still apply for it. FARC hasn't said they're not funding it yet.</p> <p>FARC had agreed to make EMD a priority for three RSAF grant cycles to allow the localities to put in for funding. By making this a priority, it opened the door to help funding this project statewide. This is the third RSAF grant cycle that this has been implemented. FARC was wondering if EMD should still be a priority since there are still localities that haven't met this requirement and we have met the original priority agreement. EMD has to be implemented by 2022 by all localities. For the localities that haven't yet implemented EMD, that is probably when the rest of them will try to apply to meet the mandated deadline. A motion was made by and seconded to extend the priority for EMD funding. The motion was carried unanimous to extend this priority.</p> <p>Bruce stated that most of the volunteer agencies do not have paid professional grant writers. One of his concerns was that most, if not all of the municipalities, appear to have professional grant writers. They are going to put in for grants whether they need anything or not. This ensures that they don't lose the grant writer position and it shows the municipalities they are putting in for the latest technology too. It may even give them an edge or advantage when applying for grants due to having the professional grant writers. Luke stated that is a case for training the applicants themselves. We keep stressing there has to be a logic for your request.</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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	We tell the applicants to tie into that statement of purpose in the regs for RSAF. The three points are patient care, access and transfer.	
<b>IX. Next Meeting Date and Location - TBA</b>	The next FARC quarterly meeting will be held Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 1:00 pm. We may meet by webinar. This will be determined.	No further action is required
<b>X. Adjournment</b>	Meeting adjourned	No further action is required

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