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Fire Fighters Association of Missouri



ABOUT THE COVER

Firefighter Honor Guard at the Annual Memorial Services in Kingdom City, MO. **By Gail Hagans**

Submit a cover photo:

Send your high resolution image and information to ffam.jmiller@gmail.com

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CONTENT

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SUBMIT ADDRESS CORRECTIONS TO:

FFAM PO Box 1153 Warrensburg, MO 64093

FFAM.ORG

President's Remarks





Larry Jennings

What a great time of year to get out and enjoy some of the spectacular colors Missouri has to offer before we drift off into the frigid white abyss some people seem to enjoy and refer to as winter. Hopefully, each of you are prepared for the upcoming changes in our weather and remember to take the necessary precautions to keep yourselves and your equipment well cared for during the colder events.

I saw many of you at the Memorial Services in Kingdom City in October as we honored our fellow personnel who have passed away. Again this year the services were well done and very memorable. The work done by the Foundation and a few "extra" volunteers makes the ceremonies respectful and fitting for recognizing the sacrifices made by not only the deceased fire personnel, but also their families. I know it is a way out, but mark your calendars now for October 3rd and 4th next year and plan to join us as we gather again to honor our brothers and sisters.

Remember, each of our agencies has a statutory requirement (RSMo 320.271) to register with the Fire Marshal's Office. Your registration is due at the first of each

year, so take a few moments and make sure to get your department registered if this is your responsibility, or make sure you remind whomever may have this responsibility. The information gathered is useful during activations of the State-Wide Mutual Aid system, and registration is often tied to being able to receive certain financial grants. Get started on the registration TODAY!

Keep an eye out for the announcement for classes at the MU FRTI Winter Fire School, which will be coming up in February in Columbia. What an excellent opportunity to receive outstanding training at little to no expense for you. In addition to the knowledge you can gain in the formal classroom setting, you can also stop in the vendor expo on Friday and gain additional valuable information as you network with vendors and fire personnel from across our state.

Scholarships and awards are available through our organization, but awards or recognition can not be made if you don't apply for funds or nominate someone for an award. The criteria for the scholarships and the various awards are available on the FFAM website and the applications or nominations are due February 28th. Each year we hear about many good things done by FFAM members, but without a nomination many may go without the extra recognition they deserve. Submit your request for a scholarship or award nomination on time to be considered.

By now, most of you are likely recovering from the backlog of public relations/fire safety events in your area. Although the month of October tends to be the busiest time for these activities, I urge you to stay engaged with your outreach partners all through the year to continue getting a safety message in front of the public. We learn "muscle memory" from repeating our training over and over to help us perform in emergencies without hesitation and this same concept can be applied to the public. So if we want them to understand what to do in fire and other emergency events, we need to make sure we are first educating them and then reinforcing that education more than once a year. Be creative in how you get your message out and be creative on where you deliver the message. We tend to focus on elementary age folks for many of our interactions, but remember there is a completely other end of the age spectrum that can benefit from gentle reminders about fire safety. Don't wait for your community to come to you for education or even worse, never see you until possibly the worst day of their lives. Be proactive, be involved, be a community leader every chance you or your agency has an opportunity.

If any of the Board can be of assistance to you, please never hesitate in reaching out. Be Safe!



Greetings from the 13th Floor

I'll begin with "Happy Holidays." It warms my heart to see Christmas trees already on display in the windows of homes in my neighborhood, along with Thanksgiving decorations. I do want to be found guilty of being thankful and remembering the greatest gift of all: Jesus Christ's birth, and him becoming my Lord and Savior. My hope and prayer are that you will also be found guilty of, and we practice this daily in our lives.

I would like to take a moment of personal privilege and express my appreciation for the outpouring of your thoughts, prayers, condolences, flowers, cards, text, phone calls and the ones who took time out of your busy schedules and attended the visitation and funeral of my dad, Joe R. Bean. My family and I are deeply grateful for your love and kindness. He is missed. There will be many firsts in my life moving forward, but I am working on seeing him, my mom and my sister sometime down the road.

I reported in my last article about a \$1.44 million grant available for volunteer fire departments with a budget of \$50,000 or less. I checked with the Department of Public Safety grant managers as to how many have applied. As of Tuesday, November 4th, 49 had applied, and 16 applications were in edit status, meaning they are working on their application but haven't fully submitted them yet. Here is the information for the grant! Please apply if your department meets the criteria!

Fire Marshal's Update

SFY 2026 VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT (VFDG)

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)

GRANT ISSUED BY

Missouri Department of Public Safety

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TITLE

SFY 2026 Volunteer Fire Department Grant (VFDG)

INTRODUCTION

The Missouri Department of Public Safety is pleased to announce the funding opportunity for the Volunteer Fire Department Grant (VFDG). This state-administered program is funded through the State of Missouri.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the VFDG is to provide grant funding for volunteer or combination fire department entities for fire protection. Fire protection entities include fire departments as defined in section 320.200(3) RSMo as an agency or organization that provides fire suppression and related activities, including, but not limited to, fire prevention, rescue, emergency medical services, hazardous material response, or special operations to a population within a fixed and legally recorded geographical area.





Tim Bean

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE 5 months

PROJECTED PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE START DATE December 15, 2025

PROJECTED PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE END DATE May 15, 2026

FUNDING INSTRUMENT Grant

MAXIMUM AWARD

\$15,000.00 per applicant agency. Funds in the amount of \$1,455,000.00 are available for this program.

MATCH REQUIREMENT

5% Cash (Hard) Match. For example, if the total cost of the project is \$15,789.47, the recipient match share of 5% would be \$789.47, and the state share of 95% would be \$15,000.00.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Missouri volunteer or combination fire department entities with an annual operating budget of \$50,000.00 or less.

Fire protection entities include fire departments as defined in section 320.200(3) RSMo as an agency or organization that provides fire suppression and related activities, including, but not limited to, fire prevention, rescue, emergency medical services, hazardous material response, or special operation to a population within a fixed and legally recorded geographical area.

To be eligible for VFDG funding, the applicant agency must be compliant with the following statute:

Section 320.271 RSMo – Fire
 Department Registration Pursuant to
 section 320.271 RSMo, All fire protection
 districts, fire departments, and all volunteer fire protection associations as defined

Continued on page 14.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 2025 • MO State Fair Youth Building, Sedalia MO • Secretary/Treasurer Jaime Miller

President Larry Jennings called the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri to order at 9:00 am Sunday, October 12, 2025, at the Missouri State Fair Youth Building, Sedalia, MO.

ROLL CALL OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OTHER OFFICIALS

OFFICERS

President Larry Jennings – Johnson County FPD; First Vice President Charlie Peel – Southeastern Randolph FPD; Second Vice President Grant Oetting – Higginsville FD; Secretary/Treasurer Jaime Miller – Johnson County FPD #2; Sergeant-at-Arms Jonathan Evans – Lincoln Comm FD (V).

DIRECTORS

District 2 Vernon Cash – Shelbina FPD (V); District 3 Rob Erdel – Little Dixie FPD; District 5 Terry Plumb – Southern Stone FPD (V); District 8 Bob Floyd – El Dorado Springs FD; District 10 Romona Kaminski – Fenton FD; District 11 Billy Smith – North Central Carroll Co FPD; District 12 Rob Francis – Fruitland FPD (V).

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

District 1 Janet Cain – Shoal Creek FPD; District 1 Blake Callen – Grundy County FPD (V); District 3 Dale Ransdell – Madison West Monroe FPD; District 3 Josh Loyd – Martinsburg Area FPD (V); District 6 Alan Braun – Cole County FPD (V); District 7 Andrew Caldwell – Boles FPD (V); District 11 Kris White – Mayview FPD; District 11 Josh Koepke – Kansas City FD (V).

GUESTS

David Hedrick (V), Gail Hagans – University of Missouri Extension Fire and Rescue Training Institute; Tim Bean – Missouri Division of Fire Safety; Keith Smith – Warrenton FPD; Larry Eggen, Cameron Lauber – Johnson County FPD; Roy Pennington – Pettis Co FPD; Doc Kritzer – Memorial Foundation; Kyle Arnold – Kearney FPD; Ken Hoover – Little Dixie FPD.

*(V) denotes Virtual Attendance

AGENDA

President Jennings asked for additions to the agenda. Rob Erdel moved to approve the agenda as presented. Dale Ransdell seconded the motion and all approved.

MINUTES

Present Jennings asked for a review of the August 3, 2025, meeting minutes. Billy Smith moved to accept the minutes as presented. Rob Erdel seconded the motion and all approved. Present Jennings asked for a review of the August 27, 2025, meeting minutes. Grant Oetting moved to accept the minutes as presented. Bob Floyd seconded the motion and all approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

President Jennings asked for a review of the July - August 2025 financial report. A discussion was held, and the board was advised to file the report for the annual compilation.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUEST(S)

Gail Hagans with the University of Missouri Extension Fire and Rescue Training Institute reported that the Instructors Conference will be held November 7-9 in Osage Beach. Registration is going well and there are still spots open.

The annual report is now available.

The Fire Service Leadership Enhancement course starts in January.

The MFA grant period is now open through November 30.

Tim Bean with the Missouri Division of Fire Safety reported that, through Senate Bill 71, there is now a Public Safety Recruitment and Retention Act Scholarship available. The scholarship is administered through the Department of Higher Education and departments can now apply online. There is approximately \$1.5 million being awarded.

\$1.4 million for a volunteer fire service grant will open October 15 – November 14. This grant is available for volunteer membership-based departments and associations with less than \$50k in revenue. This is a matching funds grant for equipment and supplies.

There is also \$200k available for a work comp grant for volunteer fire departments. Only 30 departments have applied.

NERIS for fire reporting is starting soon, with NFIRS ending at the beginning of 2026

DISTRICT REPORTS

DISTRICT 5

Terry Plumb reported that he has made contact with a Southern Stone Ambulance District and provided membership information.

DISTRICT 8

Bob Floyd reported that he has been in contact with Milo and that Cedar County Ambulance District has now joined. He has a meeting with Vernon County Ambulance. Rusty Darnell is now the Chief of Strafford FD and will be hosting a grand opening next week.

DISTRICT 10

Romona Kaminski reported that she is working on reviewing and updating the department contacts in her district.

DISTRICT 11

Billy Smith reported that he discussed membership with Pleasant Valley. Jason Deitch is meeting with Arrow Rock today. Kris White reported that they participated in a 9/11 memorial motorcycle ride.

DISTRICT 12

Rob Francis reported that he attended the Cape County Firefighters Association and Region E meeting recently. He will also be retiring at the end of October and is visiting with another chief about possibly taking over his director position.

DISTRICT 14

Jaime Miller reported on behalf of Kyler Oliver that he is making contact with several departments in Gentry County.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Secretary Miller advised that she received notice from Missouri Employer's Mutual that they would not be renewing our workers' compensation insurance for 2026.

Draft • Approval at Next Meeting

Discussion followed. Rob Erdel moved to allow Secretary Miller to pursue workers' compensation coverage as necessary. Andrew Caldwell seconded the motion and all approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AWARDS COMMITTEE

The nomination deadline is February 28.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Charlie Peel reported that budget requests should all be turned in and the committee will present a proposed budget in December.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

No report was given.

CHAPLAIN COMMITTEE

Dave Hedrick reported that the Missouri Fire Chaplains Corp (MFCC) conducted its annual Conference and Training session in September. At the meeting, the current slate of officers was re-elected. Steve Martin is the new SW Regional Director. The MFCC will be doing a Winter Conference training February 4-5, 2026, at Campus Lutheran in Columbia. The classes will be Essentials of Fire Chaplaincy and Pastoral Crisis Intervention. At MU FRTI's Winter Fire School, they will have a booth at Winter Expo and be conducting the class Grief Following Trauma February 7-8, 2026. At the WFS Expo Booth the MFCC will be handing out copies of the guidance document Developing a Successful Fire Chaplain Service in Your Fire Department, produced by the IAFC Volunteer and Combination Officers Section and the Federation of Fire Chaplains. For more information contact Chaplain Ed Hatcher at edhat@earthlink.net.

The dates for the MFCC Annual Conference have been set for September 14-15, 2026.

The Federation of Fire Chaplains (FFC) annual Conference is starting this week in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

The SEMA Disaster Chaplains will be conducting their quarterly conference call and meeting on November 12.



CONTEST COMMITTEE

Rob Erdel reported that they will be ready for the convention.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Josh Loyd reported that due to hotel issues, Maryville is unable to host the 2026 convention. Liberty Fire Department has agreed to host, and the 2026 convention will be held April 24 – 26. Jaime Miller reported on behalf of Kyler Oliver that Home 2 Suites and Best Western Premier will be the hotels with discounted rates. Banquet tickets will be \$30 for adults and \$15 for Juniors. Registration is free. The caterer is booked, and the event will take place at Heritage Hall in downtown Liberty. They have letters out to sponsors - if anyone would like to reach out to sponsors, it would be very helpful, and they can forward you information on sponsor packages/and a sponsor letter as well. If anyone has any additional questions, please let Kyler know or reach out to Support Services Chief Jason Whitteck with Liberty Fire at 816-439-4310

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Josh Koepke reported that they have spent all of their training budget this year.

FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Andrew Caldwell reported that posters are due April 24 and the theme is "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home".

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Charlie Peel reported that there will be an FSA meeting on November 19 in Jefferson City. They are looking at SB 71 reference career personnel only and SB 2 language that affects personal property taxes.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Grant Oetting reported the following membership counts: 482 Directors/
Councilmen; 442 Retired; 26 Associate; 26 Sustaining; 14 Corporate, 347 Fire Departments; 6808 Active; 2 Educational Entity; 16 Educational Active; 151 Juniors; 4 EMS Department, 78 EMS individuals; 0 911 Entity; 0 911 individuals.

Continued on page 36.

By Rob Francis, Director

The Cape County Firefighters
Association set up a booth at the SEMO
District Fair this year. Firefighters from
member organizations handed out coloring
books, fire helmets, safety information, and
information links to the member organizations. This was also a recruiting event for the
area fire districts and fire departments.

Battalion Chief Brad Dillow retired from the Cape Girardeau Fire Department on October 14. Battalion Chief Dillow served for 30 years and wore many hats, including the Region E HSRT, technical rescue, and keeping the department's radio communications equipment updated and programmed. Congratulations, Battalion Chief Dillow, enjoy retirement.

There was another retirement in Cape Girardeau County in October. I retired as the Fire Chief of Fruitland Area Fire Protection District on October 31. I served in that position for 11 years, partly as a volunteer chief and then as a paid chief.

With my retirement, District 12 will need a new director. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as a director of FFAM. Thank you for all you do for your communities and stay safe out there.

Cape County Firefighters Association's Booth at the SEMO District Fair.



Battalion Chief Brad Dillow Retires from the Cape Girardeau Fire Department.



Fire Chief Rob Francis Retires from the Fruitland Area Fire Protection District.



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Fire Fighter's Association of Missouri | Member Benefits

ANNUAL DUES

Low-cost membership dues.

FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL

\$3.00 of the active member dues goes to the Fire Fighters Memorial in Kingdom City. \$7.00 remains with the FFAM.

FFAM MAGAZINE

A bi-monthly magazine detailing a large variety of fire service issues, training schedule of regional and state opportunities, featured articles, equipment sales postings and status of political issues.

INSURANCE

A low-cost Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance is available to individual members up to \$50,000. through VFIS.

VFIS Accident & Sickness policy discounts available to departments.

Missouri Firefighter Critical Illness Pool benefits available for individual members

LODD BENEFIT

\$1,000 LODD benefit to the member's beneficiary.

DEPARTMENT GRANT

Department grant is available each year for the purchase of equipment.



REPRESENTATION/LIAISON

Representation with the National Volunteer Fire Council.

Liaison between members and the Missouri State Fire Marshal, the political front and other state agencies.

The FFAM serves as an organized voice on important annual fire service legislation.

TRAINING

Training classes available including certified board member training and other various topics.

IFSTA MATERIALS DISCOUNT

10% discount on all IFSTA training materials.

JONES & BARTLETT LEARNING MATERIALS DISCOUNT

10% discount on all JBL fire/EMS training materials.

BLUE LIGHT PERMIT CARDS

Available at no cost to the department.

LEARNING PARTNERS

Tuition and textbook discounts through our learning partners' agreement with Columbia Southern University and Waldorf University's online programs.

FIRE LOSS ASSISTANCE

Any member who sustains a minimum of \$10k fire loss in their primary residence will be given \$500 to help with expenses.



ANNUAL CONVENTION

Includes a vendor expo, competitive firefighter contest, awards banquet, dance and a business meeting.

MISSOURI STATE FAIR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Members can volunteer to work at the MSFFD which provides fire, EMS, and first aid to fairgoers each year. It is the only fully operational fire department in the United States that operates for only 11 days a year.

EYEGLASSES

Assistance with the repair of broken or lost eyeglasses while at a scene—up to \$200.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Members and relatives of members have access to scholarships up to \$1,000 for both high school seniors and those pursuing continuing education.

FACEBOOK

Stay up-to-date with important announcements on our Facebook page.

Check out our website for more exclusive member benefits!



FFAM.org



Proud and Honored to Partner with Missouri Fire Departments



Protecting Our Heroes

Complete Fire Department Safety & Rescue Solutions













Contact your local MacQueen representative to learn about our emergency solutions.

YOUR MISSOURI FIRE FIGHTERS CRITICAL ILLNESS POOL - MFFCIP

From Greg Brown, Chairman MFFCIP

The Missouri Fire Fighters Critical Illness Pool (MFFCIP) is excited to share some remarkable updates and express our gratitude for your partnership, which helps more Missouri firefighters become part of this vital program.

The MFFCIP is dedicated to supporting firefighters who contract certain types of cancer—a higher risk due to the nature of our work. In addition, we are actively addressing First Responder Mental Health and Wellness, aiming to foster a healthier, more resilient fire service community.

Our Mission Beyond Benefits

More than just financial support, the MFFCIP is committed to changing the culture within the fire service—promoting cancer exposure reduction, early detection, and mental health awareness. Our focus areas include:

- Combating post-traumatic stress and moral injury
- Supporting behavioral health and wellness initiatives

Current Impact

- Over 5,600 Missouri Fire Fighters, EMS personnel, and telecommunicators are enrolled, representing more than 143 organizations.
- The pool has already covered over 62 cancer claims, providing over \$1.5 million in critical financial assistance to members battling cancer.
- We've awarded grants to reduce costs for inpatient mental health treatment.



Recent Initiatives and Events

The Pool recently hosted the First Responder Wellness Symposium in St. Peters and Blues Springs, featuring nationally recognized speakers on topics such as:

- Strategies to Protect First Responder Mental Health
- Interactive Sleep Improvement Strategies
- Supporting Re-entry and Decompression after Incidents
- Understanding Moral Injury
- Suicide Awareness and Prevention
- Addressing Sleep Loss and Burnout
- Brain Health Optimization

We developed and continue to conduct Peer Support Training across Missouri. These are available at no cost to Missouri's first responders. Stay informed about upcoming events at www.mffcip.org.

Support Systems and Resources

 A statewide PEER SUPPORT Network, staffed by trained peers and clinicians available 24/7.

 A free Health, Wellness, and Communications App, developed in partnership with Valornet, accessible via our website. This app provides:

- Confidential communication with peer support
- Daily wellness tips based on mental, spiritual, and physical health
- Event updates, resources, and reading recommendations

Partnership with FFAM

We are proud to partner with FFAM to enable firefighters, EMS personnel, and telecommunicators to join the MFFCIP even if their primary agency does not sponsor membership.

If you have questions or want more information, please contact the MFFCIP team or visit mffcip.org.

Thank you for your dedication and partnership in protecting Missouri's first responders.

MFFCIP Contact:

Sherry Sweet, Executive Director PO Box 105573 Jefferson City, MO 65110

Phone: 573.619.7216

Email: sherry.mffcip@gmail.com

Administrator:

Thomas McGee Group Dan Greco 1715 Deer Tracks Trail, Suite 230 St. Louis, MO 63131

Phone: 314.858.6370

For Cancer Claims and Trust Questions:

dgreco@thomasmcgee.com





and the

Fire Fighters Association of Missouri



Partnering to ensure you have the cancer coverage and behavioral health benefits you deserve!

Join MFFCIP during open enrollment October 1 - December 31, 2025! Open to all Missouri Fire Fighters, EMTs and Telecommunicators

Partnership Details

The MFFCIP and the FFAM have formed a partnership to facilitate two membership options for first responder participation in the Critical Illness Pool. In addition to Department/Agency membership, Individual MFFCIP membership is now available exclusively to FFAM members. As a member of FFAM, you are eligible to join the MFFCIP by selecting the coverage limit and annual cost which works best for you.

Cancer Coverage

MFFCIP recognizes the International Association of Fire Fighters' (IAFF) published list of 17 specific cancers scientifically and statistically credible as occurring more frequently in first responder occupations. These include: bladder, brain, breast, colon, esophagus, kidney, lung, melanoma, mesothelioma, multiple myeloma, non-hodgkin lymphoma, prostrate, rectal, skin, stomach, testicular, and thyroid. MFFCIP provides benefits to members diagnosed with one of these cancers, as well as supplemental benefits for members diagnosed with10 additional cancers. Benefits are paid to the individual based on the coverage limit selected, as well as the type and stage of cancer.

Behavioral Health Support

MFFCIP provides support for the mental and emotional well-being of Missouri's first responders. Program benefits include resources, training, and best practice guidance for emergency response agencies and peer support teams, as well as a network of trained peers and culturally competent clinicians who are ready to provide assistance. Financial resources are also available to member peer support teams and clinicians, as well as individuals with out of pocket costs associated with inpatient treatment.

MFFCIP is Member-Owned. Rates are subsidized as long as funding permits. **Learn more at https://www.mffcip.org**



Advantages for First Responders

- o No invasive medical investigations.
- o More claims eligible for compensation.
- o Choose your coverage level.
- Fast payouts to assist with out of pocket expenses.
- Individual path to benefits if your department is not a MFFCIP Member.

Volunteer and Part-time First Responders with 5 or more years of service

Coverage Limit	Annual Cost		
\$100,000	\$44		
\$200,000	\$88		
\$300,000	\$133		

Full-time First Responders with 5 or more years of service

Coverage Limit	Annual Cost		
\$100,000	\$55		
\$200,000	\$109		
\$300,000	\$165		

Eligibility Requirements

- o FFAM Membership
- o Signed Required Actions Agreement
- o Roster with verification of years of service
- o Retirees up to the age of 70





in section 320.300 shall complete and file with the state fire marshal within sixty days after January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, a fire department registration form provided by the state fire marshal.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Funding will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, based on application submission date and time.

INELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Agencies that are not fire protection entities as defined in section 320.200(3)
- Agencies that are not volunteer or combination fire department entities
- Agencies with an annual operating budget greater than \$50,000.00
- Agencies that are not compliant with the above listed statutes "State agencies

ELIGIBLE COST ITEMS

The Missouri Department of Public Safety's objective in awarding VFDG funding for fire protection entities is to support fire protection/service activities in the state of Missouri. Eligible costs may support equipment and supplies. Some equipment items related to fire protection/service activities have specific requirements to be eligible for funding. The following individuals have specific requirements. Please note that the items listed below are not the only eligible equipment items.

- Turnout Gear Agencies seeking funding for turnout gear must have a policy to document cleaning and maintenance processes and procedures for turnout gear. Recipients of funding for turnout gear must supply the Missouri Department of Public Safety with a copy of such policy(s) and procedure(s) at the time of claim submission.
- Interoperability Equipment (Portables/ Handhelds, Mobiles, Repeaters, Base Stations, etc.) Investments in emergency communications systems and equipment must meet applicable SAFECOM Guidance. All radios must meet the Missouri Department of Public Safety, Office of the Director, DPS Grants Radio Interoperability Guidelines. The Missouri Interoperability Center (MIC) will review all communications equipment applications to ensure they comply with the Radio Interoperability Guidelines. Quotes are required to be submitted with the

application for all interoperability equipment. Applications that do not meet these guidelines will not be eligible for funding.

NOTE: Agencies seeking any type of radio or radio-related accessory are encouraged to contact the Missouri Interoperability Center by phone at (573) 522- 1714 or by email at moswin. sysadmin@dps.mo.gov to ensure compliance with the Radio Interoperability Guidelines and the appropriate communication devices are purchased for the department's needs. The Missouri Interoperability Center staff can also provide helpful information regarding the department's ability to access the MOSWIN and how to articulate such within the grant application.

UNALLOWABLE COST ITEMS

- Vehicles
- Drones/Drone Accessories
- Construction/Renovations
- Items Affixed to a Facility
- Personnel
- Benefits
- Travel/Training
- Contractual
- Firearms
- Ammunition
- Less Lethal Weapons
- Lobbying
- Fundraising
- Corporate Formation
- State and Local Sales Taxes
- Aircraft
- Military-Type Equipment
- Interoperability equipment that is not compliant with the Missouri Statewide Interoperability Network (MOSWIN) and Radio Interoperability Guidelines.

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

- Applications will only be accepted through the Missouri Department of Public Safety (DPS) online WebGrants System: https://dpsgrants.dps.mo.gov/ index.do
- Key Dates and Times a. Application Start Date: October 15, 2025 b. Application Submission Deadline: Funding opportunity will be closed when eligible applications have been received to fulfill the amount of funding available.
- 3. Agreeing to Terms and Conditions of the Award By submitting an application, applicants agree to comply with the requirements of this NOFO and

the terms and conditions of the award, should they receive an award.

As part of the VFDG application, eligible applicants must complete all application forms and provide all required documentation:

- 1. Contact Information Form
- 2. DPS Grants State Requirements Form
- 3. Interoperable Communications Form
- 4. Project Package VFDG
- 5. Budget
- 6. Named Attachments:
 - a. Copy of Most Recent Approved Operating Budget (Required)
 - b. Quote or Cost Basis
 - c. Turnout Gear Maintenance Policy (Required only if requesting Turnout Gear)
 - d. Other Supporting Documentation
 - e. Other Supporting Documentation

CONTACT INFORMATION

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LEAD GRANT SPECIALIST

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GRANTS SUPERVISOR

Chelsey Call (573) 526-9203

Chelsey.Call@dps.mo.gov

DPS GRANTS PROGRAM MANAGER

Joni McCarter

(573) 526-9020

Joni.McCarter@dps.mo.gov

IN CLOSING

"Thank You" for each and everything you do each day serving our state and your friends and neighbors. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! If I can be of any assistance, please reach out to me at tim. bean@dfs.dps.mo.gov or 573-751-1742 or 573-645-2069.

Stay Safe, J. Tim Bean



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BEST PRACTICES for Preventing FIREFIGHTER CANCER

- Full protective equipment (PPE) must be worn throughout the entire incident, including SCBA during salvage and overhaul.
- A second hood should be provided to all entry-certified personnel in the department.
- Following exit from the IDLH, and while still on air, you should begin immediate gross decon of PPE using soap water and a brush, if weather conditions allow. PPE should then be placed into a sealed plastic bag and placed in an exterior compartment of the rig, or if responding in POVs, placed in a large storage tote, thus keeping the off-gassing PPE away from passengers and self.
- After completion of gross decon procedures as discussed above, and while still on scene, the exposed areas of the body (neck, face, arms and hands) should be wiped off immediately using wipes, which must be carried on all apparatus. Use the wipes to remove as much soot as possible from head, neck, jaw, throat, underarms and hands immediately.
- Change your clothes and wash them after exposure to products of combustion or other contaminants. Do this as soon as possible and/or isolate in a trash bag until washing is available.
- Shower as soon as possible after being exposed to products of combustion or other contaminants. "Shower within the Hour"
- PPE, especially turnout pants, must be prohibited in areas outside the apparatus floor (i.e. kitchen, sleeping areas, etc.) and never in the household.
- Wipes, or soap and water, should also be used to decontaminate and clean apparatus seats, SCBA and interior crew area regularly, especially after incidents where personnel were exposed to products of combustion.
- Get an annual physical, as early detection is the key to survival. The NVFC outlines several options at **www.nvfc.org**. "A Healthcare Provider's Guide to Firefighter Physicals" can be downloaded from **www.iafc.org/healthRoadmap**.
- Tobacco products of any variety, including dip and e-cigarettes should never be used at anytime on or off duty.
- Fully document ALL fire or chemical exposures on incident reports and personal exposure reports.

FUNDING PROVIDED BY













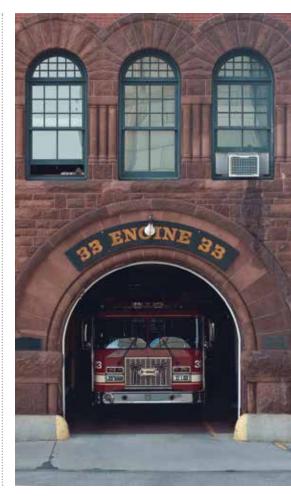


FEATURE YOUR DEPARTMENT!

2025 VFIS

Fill out this form and submit it with a department photo and we will feature your department in an upcoming FFAM magazine.

YOUR NAME:	YOUR PHONE:			
DEPARTMENT NAME:				
DEPARTMENT ADDRESS:				
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS:NUMBER OF PAID	D: TOTAL MEMBERS:			
IS YOUR DEPARTMENT FIRE AND EMS COMBINED? THE YES TO NO				
AVERAGE CALLS PER YEAR: AVERAGE	GE FIRES PER YEAR:			
AVERAGE RESCUE/EXTRICATION CALLS PER YEAR:				
AVERAGE MEDICAL CALLS PER YEAR (IF APPLICABLE):				
YEAR DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED:CHIEF	=:			
NUMBER OF ENGINES:NUM	IBER OF TANKERS:			
NUMBER OF RESCUE:NUMBER	OF AMBULANCES:			
OTHER APPARATUS:				
Email this form along with a group photo, including r	•			



SERVICES, DONATIONS AND HISTORY

By Keith Smith, Chairman

The 2025 Candlelight and Sunday Services honored 104 Firefighters, 10 of those in the line of duty were completed October 4th and 5th. Rough estimates of attendance numbers were close to 500 for the Candlelight Service and over 600 for the Sunday service. All 500 of our new chairs were used on Sunday morning, with dozens accepting a standing position. Special thank you to over a dozen of FFAM, IAFF and Funeral Response Team members which assisted this year. It is humbling to realize that one year of preparation by so many goes into delivering 2 hours of combined service time.

Between the 1st and 2nd printing of the 2025 memorial shirts, plus several extras being sold, sales this year approached 425. We greatly appreciate all of that support. The weather fully cooperated and both services were held on site. Looking ahead to October 3rd and 4th, 2026, planning and preparation are already underway. The next Foundation meeting is on December 7th in Sedalia.

Our Facebook page continues with great viewing numbers. Between October 1st and November 1st, we documented 8,438 views. Granted, half of those were during the 4-days following our two services. We now have over 1,000 followers.

Special thanks to Firestorm Charities for sponsoring the Foundation this year with their 911 Tribute to Heroes ride and special events. The ride started at Arcadian Moon Winery near Higginsville and concluded at the Branded Steakhouse and entertainment venue in Richmond. Kyle Harrison, President of Firestorm Charities, presented the Foundation with a check for \$6,000 at the October 12th FFAM Board meeting in Sedalia.

Some breaking news that Gail just came across. The Statue, which the Memorial Foundation gifted to New York City following September 11th, was moved again. The following is a copy and paste from the "Advance Group" which moved the statue to the FDNY Training Center. If you are interested in seeing the entire notice with several pictures, you can go to theadvancegrp.com/the-kneeling-firefighter-relocation-2025.

THE ADVANCE GROUP

The Advance Group completed the meaningful relocation of the statue known as The Kneeling

 $\hbox{Kyle Harrison, President of Firestorm Charities, presenting Keith Smith a \$6,000 check}. \\$



Firefighter from its prior location on 43rd Street to its new home at the Fire Academy on Randall's Island. This move reflects not only a logistical achievement, but also a deep respect for the legacy the statue represents.

THE STATUE'S HISTORY

The Kneeling Firefighter was originally commissioned by the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri and manufactured by Matthews International in Parma, Italy. The sculpture arrived in New York on September 9, 2001, bound for Missouri—but air travel was halted following the attacks of September 11. In light of the great loss of 343 FDNY firefighters that day, the statue was donated to the people of New York as a tribute. For years, it stood on East 43rd Street, quietly honoring those who answered the call, until now.

WHY THE MOVE

As our city's needs evolve and memorial spaces expand, relocating the statue to the Fire Academy on Randall's Island brings it into closer connection with the training environment for our heroes today. It offers a setting where future first-responders can reflect on the sacrifices made before them—and a location within a campus dedicated to service.

A MOMENT OF REFLECTION

Moving a statue isn't just about transportation—it's about honoring legacy. The Kneeling Firefighter represents courage,

sacrifice, and the enduring spirit of first-responders. By relocating it thoughtfully, we help ensure its visibility, significance, and meaning are preserved for generations to come.

At The Advance Group, we see ourselves as more than logistics and installation—we see ourselves as stewards of meaningful work. We're honored to have played a part in this relocation and grateful to everyone involved who brought it to life.

Thank you to all the brave first-responders, past and present. And thank you to our team for helping make this relocation a success.



MY THOUGHTS

Meanwhile, back at the ranch and speaking only for myself, this brought up several thoughts, questions, reflections and some varied emotions. This takes the statue out of the public domain and positions it solely within the FDNY. I had to remind myself that when you give a gift without restriction, you trust the receiver will become a wonderful steward of the hopes and dreams behind the decision to make the gift. If the greater good of the statue is to inspire the current and next generation of the FDNY, then that is what needs to be done. Their predecessors gave the ultimate sacrifice at that time, and those remaining on the job continued to serve through terrible difficulty. If this inspires current and future generations within FDNY on a daily basis while training for the future, that is more important than the photo op of a tourist visiting the big apple for a couple of days.

If you need to contact us, we have several options. For general information, engraving and shopping, our website is mofirememorial-museum.org/ Our mailing address is 5550 Dunn Drive, Kingdom City, MO 65262. For email, please use info@mofirememorial-museum.org. This is a shared platform in checking on messages, so please give it a few days to respond. If it is urgent or you prefer to save time, please call 314 709 0760.

Thank you for your time and continued support of your memorial and future museum.





APPLY NOW FOR 2026 SCHOLARSHIPS!

It is time to start thinking about the graduation of seniors from high school and the scholarship opportunities available from FFAM. We have up to four scholarships for our members. We also have up to two continuing education scholarships for members in the emergency services field.

Applications and rules can be found on our website, www.ffam.org, and select the Scholarship Committee tab located under Committees. Applications and required documents will be accepted until midnight, February 28th of each year, and should be submitted to:

> Scholarship Committee PO Box 1153 Warrensburg, MO 64093

Apply Now









The scholarship funds will be applied

at the designated college/university

after verification of enrollment is

received by the FFAM Secretary.

Scholarship funds can be used for

right to verify proof of acceptable

(i.e. receipts, etc.).

directly toward the recipient's account

tuition, books, supplies, and equipment

required for courses at the educational institution. The FFAM reserves the

expenditures of the scholarship funds

















































RAYMOND LLOYD MCELWEE

August 9, 1969 • October 22, 2025

Raymond was born the middle child of Ronald and Linda (Russell) McElwee on August 9th, 1969, at Ray County Memorial Hospital in Richmond, Missouri. He lived North of Knoxville on his maternal grandparents farm (Raymond and Ethel {Butler} Russell), until 1977 when his family moved to the farm south of Cowgill. As a child he enjoyed playing outside with his Erytl toys (almost all Ford), playing with numerous family pets, general shenanigans with his siblings, and enjoying bomb pops and blackberry pie. As a child, he received a GI Joe as a Christmas gift and his spirit of collecting was born and continued into adulthood. As a child he participated in 4H becoming proficient in gardening, painting, woodworking and surprisingly, embroidery.

He attended school at Polo from Kindergarten through High school, graduating in 1987. He was active in the FFA, becoming a State Farmer. He also participated in Sheep Production, Wildlife Management, Row Crop, and Floriculture. He was a great percussionist and drummer, playing in both concert and marching bands as well as attending the state music festival for several years. He played football, basketball and track, and while he was admittedly not the best athlete in High School, he had the most school spirit, always supporting his friends enthusiastically and ready to be put in the game. He was very well known as everyone's friend with a wicked sharp wit and sense of humor.

He then attended Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville Missouri for two years, where he was active on campus with the Aggies. Ultimately, he decided to continue his education at Grand River Technical School in Chillicothe, Mo where he completed his EMT and Paramedic courses. His first job (other than being the fearless conductor of the children's choo choo train at Worlds of Fun) was at Ray County Ambulance Service. He also worked at Excelsior Springs Fire Department, Tri County Ambulance Service, and Kearny Fire and Rescue Protection District. He then joined the Liberty Fire Department and finished fire training, later becoming a Captain. His proudest career achievement was becoming Captain and he took this responsibility very seriously. He took great pride in helping citizens and serving others. Some of his greatest friendships and brotherhood bonds were forged during his career as a Paramedic/Firefighter. His absence will be felt throughout the department and community.



Raymond was also a full time farmer and enjoyed farming the family land and was passionate about conservation and ethical farming practices.

He was known for his many hobbies which included: snow-boarding, skiing (water and snow), scuba diving, Ice Hockey goalie for a rec team, leather working, buying and sometimes restoring antique tractors, and woodworking. He was also a drummer in a Christian Rock band "High Command" where he and his friends traveled around the area



playing gigs for fun. He frequented 80's hair band concerts and country music concerts. He was a fantastic dancer and loved going out with his friends. His dancing skills paid off when he met his forever dancing partner in 2007 and married Cindy Hughes in 2012.

His greatest joy came from their union when Jacob Oliver was born in 2015.

His adventurous nature continued into adulthood where he became an avid fisherman participating in many tournaments and competitions. He enjoyed Cowboy reenactment shooting, which included full authentic clothing, weaponry and various accessories, including a fully functioning cannon.

In 2024 he became a 4H leader of shooting sports where, with the help of a NRA grant, he shared his love of shooting with the kids and secured equipment for Caldwell County to start this project.

Raymond was a born again Christian and proclaimed Jesus as his Lord and Savior. He was baptized at Polo Baptist Church and attended Cowgill Baptist Church as a child. He and his family regularly attended Gospel Christian Center in Cowgill Missouri and enjoyed fellowship with that body of believers.

Raymond lived life to the fullest. He had vast and passionate interests. He loved his family, friends and co-workers. He will be remembered by his great love, adventurous spirit, quick wit, and generous heart.

He is preceded in death by his father, Ronald McElwee, his paternal grandparents, Ollie and Flossie (Reeves) McElwee, his maternal grandparents, Raymond and Ethel (Butler) Russell, his step grandfather Everett Teegarden. His is survived by his beloved wife and son, Cindy and Jacob McElwee of the home, his mother Linda (Russell) McElwee of Cowgill, his brother Ronald Lee Jr (Christine) of Cowgill, and sister Rebecca (Michael) Hodges of St Joseph, Missouri, and Niece Megan Hodges of St Joseph Missouri, many cousins and a host of friends.

The family suggests contributions to the Braymer food pantry or Gospel Christian Center.

CHARLES "CHUCK" C. HOEHNE

November 2, 1932 • September 18, 2025

Charles "Chuck" C. Hoehne, 92, of Palmyra, MO, passed away at 12:27 AM, Thursday, September 18, 2025, at his home.

Chuck was born November 2, 1932, in Halcomb, MS, to Carl Christin Hoehne and Lura Ellen Clark Hoehne.

Survivors include his brother, Carl Kenneth "Splinter" Hoehne of Palmyra, MO. Chuck was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Donald R. "Pogo" Hoehne.

Chuck proudly served in the US Army. Chuck's dedication to his 42 years of work at the U.S. Post Office was matched only by his fierce commitment to the Palmyra Fire Department, where he honorably served for 40 years, leading as Fire Chief for the last 15 years of his tenure. His leadership and bravery have touched the lives of numerous individuals, both within the department and the community he protected.

Chuck was an active member of the community. He was involved with the Palmyra Civil Defense Auxiliary Police, Marion County Sheriff's Department, and Marion and Ralls County Local Emergency Planning Commission. He was also a member of the University of Missouri Extension Counsel, a member of the Active and Retired Federal Employees Association – Hannibal Mark Twain Chapter 683, United Commercial Travelers Association, The Travelers Protection Association of America and locally, Past President of Luther Manor Nursing Home and a member of the Palmyra Greenwood Cemetery Association. Chuck

handicap hunts at Mark Twain Lake.

Chuck was a man of varied interests, finding joy in the simple pleasures of life. His mornings often started with French Toast and Bacon at the Rocket, and no lunch was complete without a casual gathering at HATS.

Chuck enjoyed watching the classic tales of Gunsmoke, Rifleman, Wagon Train, and Bonanza. Sunday nights found him immersed in the latest showing at the theatre.



Chuck was known for his ability to make friends with ease, leaving an impression of kindness and humanity wherever he went. His readiness to extend a helping hand and his exceptional skill in fixing and assembling things with precision, spoke volumes of his big heart.

A devout man, Chuck's faith guided him, instilling in him values that shone through his everyday interactions. His collection of fireman memorabilia was not just a hobby but a reflection of the deep respect and admiration he held for his fellow firefighters. His presence will be dearly missed, and the memories he has created will forever be cherished by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Chuck was a member of Zion Lutheran Church. Pallbearers will be the Palmyra Fire Department. Honorary Pallbearer will be Robert Rupp. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Croix Hospice or Zion Lutheran Church



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HEALING HEARTS

By Nathan Ball, Executive Director, Burns Recovered

Nobody chooses to be severely burned. Yet the American Burn Association reports that well over 1,200 Americans are burned in one way or another every single day. The majority are burned by flames.

Firefighters are most often the first to arrive when severe burn injuries occur. From the moment they step onto the scene of an emergency, their impact begins — and for some, that impact continues for years.

It happens through their partnership with Burns Recovered. For more than 40 years, Burns Recovered has served burn survivors of all ages in the Midwest through its mission of care for each one. Firefighters and departments can be significantly involved in the healing process for burn survivors in multiple ways long after the fire trucks have returned home.

From the very beginning, firefighters have been an essential part of the Burns Recovered community of love and support. Individual firefighters and several fire departments have consistently shown up—volunteering time, raising funds, and inspiring hope for burn survivors in the Midwest. As first responders who witness the immediate aftermath of burn incidents, they bring a unique perspective and empathy to the burn community. Some firefighters form lasting relationships with burn survivors; relationships rooted in compassion, recovery, and the belief that every burn survivor deserves a full and vibrant life.

Burns Recovered began in 1983 through the efforts of several burn survivors, volunteers, and staff at the St. John's Mercy Hospital Burn Unit in St. Louis. When Linda and Gary Hansen joined ten years later in 1993, their vision and dedication transformed the organization into what it is today: a lifeline for burn survivors across the Midwest through programs that support healing and empowerment.

Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, burn peer support and assistance programs expanded across Missouri and beyond, creating a strong community built on healing, resilience, and the shared belief that no burn survivor should face recovery alone.

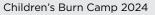
In 1997 the Hansens launched the Missouri Children's Burn Camp—later renamed the Midwest Children's Burn Camp (MCBC)—as a free, weeklong overnight camp in the Missouri wilderness for youth burn survivors ages 6 to 17. Today, as in the beginning, Burn Camp provides a safe, supportive environment where children who have been burned can rebuild confidence, form lasting friendships, and experience the joys of childhood without judgment. Over 30 years after its founding, the Midwestern Children's Burn Camp is still the only burn camp in Missouri and Kansas.

Next summer, Burn Camp will welcome about 70 kids - some newly burned, others returning from previous years. For many, Burn Camp becomes a life-saving anchor, a place of belonging and hope. Some campers return as counselors to give back to others what they once received. "Midwest Children's Burn Camp was the first place that I didn't have to include burn survivor in my introduction of myself," says Claire Jolly, a former camper turned counselor. "I was still a burn survivor, but I got to be a kid first."

This strong sense of community has allowed Burns Recovered to expand its programs to serve a broader range of burn survivors. For example, the Burn Survivor Peer Support Program connects new survivors in acute care with others who have walked the same path—offering words of comfort, courage, and understanding. One of the current priorities of Burns Recovered is to review and expand this program.

Another vital initiative is the Adult Life Retreat, started in 2024 This weekend-long retreat offers support, fellowship, and healing to adult burn survivors over 21, helping them overcome insecurities and rediscover their best selves. Similarly, the Changing Times Young Adult Retreat provides support for burn survivors aged 18–21, offering a safe space to discuss topics such as intimacy, financial responsibility, and planning for the future.

Family Camp, introduced in 2022, was an immediate success. This weekend-long retreat for survivors and their families focuses on play, growth, and building





confidence together. All Burns Recovered programs share one goal: to build community and empowerment through shared experiences.

From serving on the Board of Directors to volunteering at Burn Camp and raising funds, members of the fire service play a vital role in bringing dedication, leadership, and heart to every program. One example of this commitment comes from the small Fruitland Area Fire Protection District. Their annual "Fill the Helmet" event consistently raises \$10,000 for Burn Camp. Their motivation is simple and is summed up by Lo Tomlin, a burn survivor and current camp counselor, "Getting to help these kids be just kids for one week is incredible and seeing how much they grow in just a week, is mind blowing! The memories they make at camp, they'll have forever."

A second example is the City of St. Louis Fire Department that hosts an annual volley-ball tournament. This year they had 20 teams and raised \$10,000. The Gravois Fire Protection District holds a rib fundraiser, the Columbia Fire Association holds an annual golf tournament, and the Glendale, MO Fire Department also runs a "Fill the Helmet" event. These events and other ways of contributing check off three boxes: They generate awareness of people who have been burned, raise funds to deliver programs, and draw attention to the importance of safety. No matter the size of the event or the amount of money raised, this is how the gifts



Mykie May: Firefighter, Senior Burn Camp Volunteer Leader





Brittney Miller: Firefighter, Burn Camp Counselor & Burn Survivor

of hope and opportunity for burn survivors become a part of our various communities.

Money is essential. Money, at its core, is simply fuel that enables other things to happen. In this case, the fuel creates various programs, including Burn Camp. The camp is 100% free, including transportation, for all campers. Many families face extreme financial hardship for various reasons, including unwieldly medical expenses. For many families, an experience like Burn Camp would simply be out of reach financially if fees were not covered. Other programs are offered at a low cost.

At \$2,500 per camper, the generosity of firefighters and other supporters ensures that every child can attend regardless of circumstance. Burn Camp is funded completely by the financial gifts and investments of individuals, foundations, and fire departments. Close to 20 fire departments are currently partnering with Burns Recovered in different ways. Burns Recovered is working to grow that number. "Our hope", says Bethany Westlake, chair of the board of Directors, "is that this number will double over the next several years. The fire service is a natural partnership where we can do something good together that none of us can do alone."

Firefighters' involvement with burn survivors is an extension of their calling to serve. By partnering with Burns Recovered they see the positive outcomes of their giving and volunteering and can be proud of helping develop resilience in the lives of those they once rescued. They can become mentors, friends, and role models, helping survivors heal emotionally as well as physically. Their participation also promotes fire safety education and fosters therapeutic healing for firefighters who may carry emotional scars from traumatic calls.

For decades, the fire service has stood shoulder to shoulder with Burns Recovered to ensure that burn survivors continue to heal, rebuild, and thrive. This partnership embodies the true spirit of service—protecting lives, restoring hope, and strengthening communities. Firefighters' compassion and commitment transform recovery into resilience and tragedy into triumph.

In the end, we all want the same. To live in safe communities and to find support during our times of need. We all want to belong to a loving family, and experience "community" in our week to week living. We want to be accepted for who we are, and do not want to be defined by our scars, whether those scars are on the outside, as they are for burn survivors, or on the inside, which is all of us.



911 OLD COMMANDER HEROES TRIBUTE LAMP FUNDRAISER

Benefits the MO Firefighters Memorial and Museum Project

This project was inspired and created by Douglas P. Short of Warrensburg, MO. Douglas was inspired by the secure feeling of being able to call 911 and know that dedicated men and women, that silently walk among us ready, willing and able to be there would be coming as quickly as possible to make a difference. Having used 911 on two occasions, Douglas wanted to give back and created the Heroes Tribute Lamp for raffle and directed the proceeds to the Missouri Firefighters Memorial and Museum Project in Kingdom City, MO.

\$1 per ticket • Drawing July 4, 2026

On the 250th anniversary of our country and the 25th year in remembrance of September 11th (911).

The inside of the Museum must be built. Help us finish it up so we can open up!

TO PURCHASE TICKETS

Mail a check with phone number to: MO FF Memorial & Museum Project PO Box 1153, Warrensburg, MO. 64093

QUESTIONS: Larry Eggen • 660-909-7882 • Leggen@JCFPD.net

PRINCE TO THOSE THAT HAVE AND THE THAT HAVE AND THAT HAVE AND THE THAT HAVE AND THE

This is what Burns Recovered, and its Fire Service partners are working to do together.

The last word is from Chelsea who, at age 13, was burned in a house fire and pulled out unresponsive. She was revived three times and spent months relearning how to walk, run, and use her hands again. She was left with a new face, a new body, and a lot of pain, both physical and emotional. She did not want to go anywhere or be seen by anyone.

"I came to burn camp wrapped in garments and a clear face shield, terrified of being stared at but instead, I walked into a room full of kids who looked like me. For the first time, I wasn't "different." I was just me. And I remember feeling like I could breathe again. Like it was all going to be alright. To every firefighter counselor, volunteer, and donor, thank you. You didn't just create a camp. You created a family, a place where kids learn to laugh again, live again, and shine, brighter than ever."

www.burnsrecovered.org • brsg@brsg.org



CONNECTING VOLUNTEERS NATIONWIDE

By Rob Erdel, Chairperson

In the Fall I had the opportunity to travel to South Dakota and attend NVFC's Fall conference. While there, networking with others from across the nation, you realize in the volunteer world of firefighting how different things are state to state, but then how similar things are also. It seems we are all plagued with some of the same issues. It is NVFC's goal to bring these issues together, state to state, prioritize and work on them as a national group. Some are resolved at local and regional levels, while others are pushed to the national level. NVFC is the largest voice for the volunteers at the national level.

As with all organizations, their membership provides much-needed funds to function. The NVFC also acquires millions in grant funding on a yearly basis. NVFC also works as a clearing house for many coporate sponsers and their give aways.

NVFC has a large voice in reducing cancer through many initiatives and programs for departments to use to combat firefighter cancer. They have many programs, printouts and guides for help on many issues in the volunteer fire service. Most can be accessed by going to their website and downloading them. Items will range from training, family support, cancer initiatives, training, recruitment and fire-based support groups.

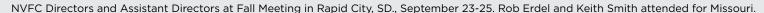
Recruitment and retention are areas that NVFC works diligently on for fire departments. One way is by accessing "makemeafirefighter.org". Fire departments list their department, then when a person goes to the site, it will lead them to a department in their area. It will give them contact information and they can sign up to connect with that department. There are several tabs that discuss what being a volunteer is and some tips on what is expected of them and what they should expect. Remember, the general public does not realize you are looking for volunteers if you don't tell them.

NVFC has many resources to support your department in the recruitment and retention of fire fighters. Currently, there are 11,000 departments listed on makemeafirefighter. org. Is yours one? NVFC also offers short 2-4 minute videos to help teach you how to manage your recruitment and retention needs. In 2025, NVFC put on 10 in person trainings around the nation. Now they are working on upgrading the makemeafirefighter.org portal to make it more modern and user-friendly. NVFC has corporate sponsorship that is looking to promote volunteering nationwide with a campaign of billboards and signs in many airports around the nation. Also in the works is an AI-generated chatbox. The idea is to help smaller departments that may not have



someone available to assist people wanting to volunteer. People can log in and ask questions, and an AI can respond to their questions, thus helping people who want to volunteer while also helping the department by responding to the person in a timely manner. This committee on the NVFC is working hard to assist departments in recruiting new members. Many resources are there and available to assist your department. Most are free of charge, and you do not need to be an NVFC member to access them.

Another growing part of the NVFC is the EMS and Rescue section. It has become a large enough area that it has its own section in the organization. The group meets regularly and works on issues pertaining to EMS based volunteers along with rescue squads. This group of members has reached 7000 plus, who are not so much fire interested but join because of the EMS support provided to volunteer departments. Some items they are currently working on are a recruitment and retention online course to enhance recruitment for volunteer EMS. Other items being focused on are the use of body



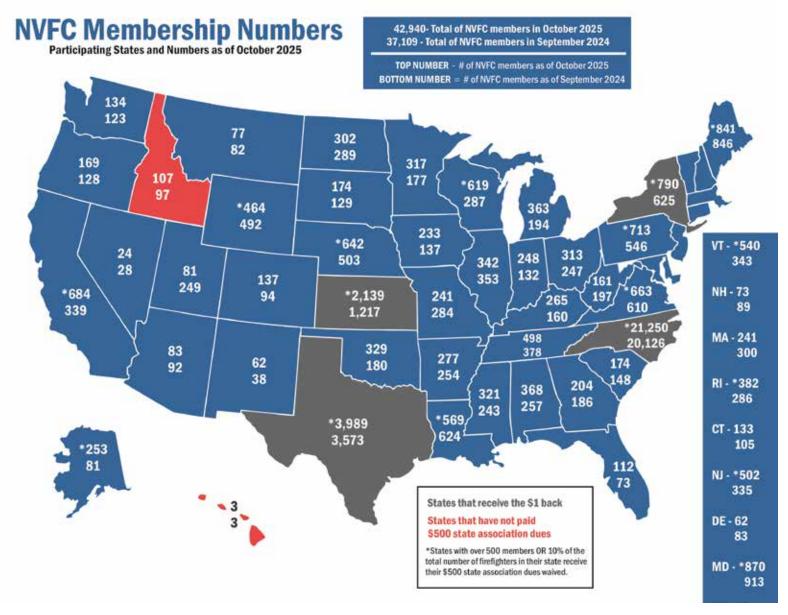


armor by 1st responders and the guidelines pertaining to this. They would like to see the guide upgraded to a standard for this PPE so it is regulated more accordingly to its use. Several other items are watched and worked on by this section of the NVFC. Their goal is to become the leader in support for volunteer EMS in the nation. Their membership is growing, and you can join as a standalone group. This group works nationally to promote EMS and its components.

Thank you for allowing me to represent you at the NVFC. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me and I will do what I can to assist. Thank you for all you do for your community and keep up the good work.

NVFC membership by each state. The top number reflects Missouri membership as of October 2025. The bottom number was our membership one year ago, October 2024. Our numbers are down reflecting improvement opportunities. There are numerous benefits with your \$24 NVFC membership. In addition to AD&D insurance for yourself, adding family members gives them the same benefits. The AD&D insurance if nothing else.

For more information on joining NVFC and benefits go to nvfc.org/join-nvfc/



Director's Comments







I cannot believe it is already getting into the holiday season. It's time for holiday traditions. As we gather with friends and family. This season, let's remember the importance of safety, whether on the front lines or at home with loved ones. The colder months often bring new hazards, and it is vital that we stay vigilant and prepared. We also encourage you to take advantage of upcoming training opportunities and to keep an eye on our resources and announcements as we plan for the year ahead.

The Missouri Emergency Services Instructor Conference was well attended, and we had some great presenters. Again, this year we had great courses for our train-thetrainers; *Introduction to the Fire Service*, and *The*

COLIDGE

Lithium-Ion Revolution. And three Instructor levels I, II, and III.

Each year, the Institute recognizes adjunct faculty for outstanding performance at the conference. The first category of awards is for those instructors who have exemplified the goal of excellence in instruction by achieving a 4.0 rating through our course evaluation process.

The following instructors received the Highest Performing Rating Single Occurrence Award: Bruce Bjorge, Aaron Bockhorst, Ben Bonner, Mike Cherry, Les Crews, Lance Davis, Jonathan Evans, Zak Haskin, Ron MacKnight, Roger Meyers, Monte Olsen, Grant Peters, Dennis Reynolds, Tyler Roberts, Travis Tent and Kara Wehmeyer.

These instructors received the *Highest Performance Rating Multiple Occurrence*: Michael Arnhart, Mark Arnold, Jeremy Freeman, Michael McCord, Michael Moore, Olan Morelan, Lynn Morgan and Charlie Peel.

The Fireball Award, created to recognize individuals for their outstanding performance, superior dedication and positive attitude to assist MU FRTI achieve its mission; one recipient was chosen this year for their outstanding performance in support of the Institute. Congratulations to Ben Wolverton for receiving this prestigious award!

The coveted *Instructor of the Year Award* was again a tight race. This award is determined through a statistical process that considers the number of classes taught, instructor performance ratings, and overall course evaluation ratings.



Find the Full Training Schedule at MUFRTI.org

DATE	COURSE	CITY	CONTACT	PHONE
11/21	Elevator Operations	Ellisville	Kyle Sanders	(636) 299-8402
11/22	Certified Fire and Ambulance District Board Training	Exeter	Donnie Chadd	(417) 835-4777
11/22	Fire Fighter I and II Live Fire Skills	Cassville	Travis Littler	(417) 671-2611
12/02	Virtual Reality Simulation for First Arriving Units and Officers	Republic	Jerod Youb	(417) 771-8180
12/03	Through the Lock SCAN CODE	Columbia	Zac Grace	(573) 874-7503
12/03	Elevator Operations	Fulton	Shawn Pettigrew	(573) 592-3153
12/06	The Lithium-lon Revolution	Lewistown	William Fountain	(573) 470-6685
12/09	Firefighter Friendly Thermal Imaging	Labadie	Rich Long	(636) 697-5861
12/11	The Lithium-lon Revolution	Laurie	Randy Scott	(573) 280-6222
12/11	Firefighter Friendly Thermal Imaging FOR SCHEDULE	Kearney	David Pratt	(816) 628-4122
12/12	Virtual Reality Simulation for First Arriving Units and Officers	Pilot Knob	John Colwell	(573) 315-8718
12/13	Certified Fire and Ambulance District Board Training	Maryville	Jeremiah Bragg	(660) 322-0223
12/15	Multi-Family Fire Tactics: Garden and Stand-Alone Apartment Buildings	Warrensburg	Matt Soer	(660) 262-4652
12/15	No Exceptions Leadership - Leadership for the Real World Fire Officer	Warrensburg	Matt Soer	(660) 262-4652
01/17	Certified Fire and Ambulance District Board Training	Rolla	FRTI	(800) 869-3476
01/24	Avoiding Operational Pitfalls for the First Arriving Officer in Command	Jackson	Rob Francis	(573) 243-6565
01/24	Making the Grab - Residential Search	Pilot Knob	John Colwell	(573) 315-8718
01/29	Courage To Be Safe So Everyone Goes Home	Buffalo	Shane Duskin	(417) 733-3977
01/29	Multi-Family Fire Tactics: Garden and Stand-Alone Apartment Buildings	Battlefield	Justin Merritt	(417) 881-9018
01/29	Multi-Family Fire Tactics: Garden and Stand-Alone Apartment Buildings	Battlefield	Justin Merritt	(417) 881-9018

Fire and Rescue Training Institute

The Institute recognized the following instructors: second runner up, Charlie Peel, first runner up, Michael Arnhart; and the *Instructor of the Year for 2024-2025* is Lynn Morgan. Congratulations to all the award recipients for your dedication and service to firefighter training.

I would like to thank all our adjunct instructors who do such an amazing job not only delivering quality training but also going out of their way to make MU FRTI the premier training organization in Missouri.

Winter Fire School is right around the corner, the Equipment Exposition is February 6, and Winter Fire School is February 7-8. Watch for the brochure and website launch soon!

All of us at the MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute wish you a safe and happy holiday season. If we can be of any assistance, please contact us at 800-869-3476 or 573-882 4735 or go to our website: mufrti.org.

University of Missouri Extension



Fire and Rescue Training Institute

FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL

WINTER FIRE SCHOOL



Columbia, Missouri

Webcasts

Four Hour Workshops

Eight Hour Workshops

Twelve Hour Classes

Forty Hour Blended Learning Classes

February 6-8



MUFRTLORG

REGISTER NOW

EQUIPMENT EXPO

FREE ADMISSION

February 6, 2026

Wyndham Executive Center



Know what to do before, during and after a storm. This will help keep you and your family safe from a winter fire.

- Test all smoke alarms. Do this at least once a month. This way you will know they are working. Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Test the alarms.
- Plan two ways out of the home in case of an emergency. Clear driveway and front walk of ice and snow. This will provide easy access to your home.
- Make sure your house number can be seen from the street. If you need help, firefighters will be able to find you.
- Be ready in case the power goes out. Have flashlights on hand. Also have battery-powered lighting and fresh batteries. Never use candles.
- Stay aware of winter weather. Listen to the television or radio for updates. Watch for bulletins online.
- Check on neighbors. Check on others who may need
- Generators should be used outdoors. Keep them away from windows and doors. Do not run a generator inside your garage, even if the door is open.
- Stay away from downed wires. Report any downed wires to authorities.
- Be ready if the heat stops working. Use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.
- Turn portable heaters off when you leave the room. Turn them off when you go to bed.

IMPORTANT

There are more home fires in winter than in any other season. Half of all home heating fires happen in December, January and February.

As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, be fire smart!



Fact

Nearly half of all space heater fires involve electric space heaters.

Submit FFAM Award Nominations



Deadline is February 28

DOWNLOAD
AND SUBMIT
A NOMINATION



ffam.org/committees/awards/



AUXILIARY OF THE YEAR

Do you know an auxiliary that provides excellent service to the community?

Do you know an auxiliary member who goes above and beyond for the fire service?

Show your appreciation, nominate them today!



PDF Application
Available at:
ffam.org/auxiliary/

Scan For Code Online Application



Nomination Deadline February 1st

Questions and Completed Applications E-Mail to: auxiliaryffam@gmail.com

Award to be given at the 2026 FFAM Convention

NVFC COMMITTEE

Keith Smith reported that he and Rob Erdel attended the NVFC fall meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota, September 21-23. This 2 ½ day meeting included a dozen individual committee meetings plus the General Session each day to conduct and vote on the general business of NVFC. They agreed the best approach concerning the sharing of committee information would be split those in half to compose a brief bullet point summary of each committee meeting plus the General Session work.

That combined summary will be submitted to President Jennings to share with the entire board. You can then review as much or as little as you have an interest in doing. You can contact Rob or Keith if you have any questions.

The ongoing OSHA Standard that impacts 29 states was the dominate topic, followed by funding of federal grants and the ongoing heart burn with the NFPA process, which has contributed to the rising costs of everything fire service.

The 2026 spring meeting is again in Alexandria, VA on May 15-17, and the fall meeting is in Owensboro, KY, September 23-25.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Ken Hoover reported that District Directors 1, 3, 7, 11, and 14 will be up for election in 2026. Interested people need to contact him by March 1.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Secretary Miller reported on a new law that takes effect October 31, requiring government entities and other groups to have an ADA compliant website. There is no clear directive on whether this applies to non-profit organizations. The Board advised to table the topic until further clarification is received if FFAM is required to modify their website.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Larry Eggen reported that scholarship applications are due February 28.

STATE FAIR COMMITTEE

Roy Pennington presented a year-end report on behalf of RB Brown. There were 40 new members this year. More than 329k attended the fair and the MSFFD responded to 224 total incidents. This is the last year in the current building. Construction of the new station will begin this year with a projected completion date of August 2026.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

No report was given.

FIRE FUNERAL TEAM REPORT

No report was given.

EMS Funeral Team report: Secretary Miller reported on behalf of Greg Wright. The team has responded to one non-LODD since the last meeting. They took delivery of a new 7x14 trailer that will be put into service in a couple of weeks. It will be staged in the Springfield area. The annual conference is October 17-19 at Camden on the Lake. The 2026 conference will be October 16-18 at Camden on the Lake with seven classes and eight instructors. It will be the biggest conference to date. Information will be shared after the first of the year.

FOUNDATION REPORT

Report from Keith Smith as follows:

The 2025 Candlelight and Sunday Services are in the history book. We honored 104 Firefighters, 10 of whom were line of duty. Rough estimates of attendance numbers were close to 500 for the Candlelight Service and over 600 for the Sunday service. Weather fully cooperated and both services were held on site.

The Sunday service was live-streamed through Facebook and YouTube. Just 3 days later, the video posting on our Facebook account had 4,200 views, 45 shares and over 100 likes.

Big thank you to the FFAM board and spouses who assisted this past weekend. Twice as many vs. last year, filling several key operational areas. Additional Funeral Response Team members were also there.

Numbers in every area were much higher than anything previous – far higher. Total engraving for walls and bricks was 125. Advance shirt sales (pick up on site and shipping combined) were 100 more than last year at 310. We had 59 extra shirts for sale and sold out Saturday evening. A second printing is in the works.

One way we track Sunday numbers is by having an exact count of ribbons. We started

Sunday morning with 611 ribbons. We had 24 left over keeping in mind several people did not want one – we know numbers were over 600.

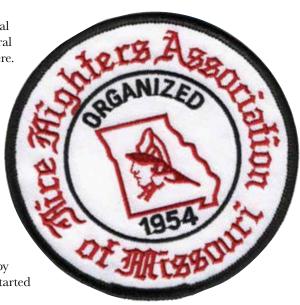
The 500 new chairs received a big workout, and yes, we did not have enough for the Sunday service. Dozens of people were standing, some by choice. 600 programs were printed off for the combined services. All of the remaining gray scale printing from the Candlelight service was passed out on Sunday morning. Just a few of the color programs arranged for the line of duty families are left.

Two 6-person courtesy golf carts were added to the operations this year, which provided assistance from the adjacent parking lots of businesses and side streets. We plan to continue that convenience.

Mark James, Missouri Public Safety Director, was able to attend, speak and present the Governor's Proclamation to each Line of Duty Family. Keynote Speaker, Russell Hobbs, Surviving Son of Ricky Hobbs, who was honored two years ago, delivered a phenomenal message.

Current construction phase with the museum project involving interior walls and mezzanine in the north end of the museum is nearly completed. Temporary electrical has been added in this space. We are going to hold off on the classroom / theater for now. Currently reviewing options with the next phase involving HVAC and additional electrical build-out.

President Jennings adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am.





FFAM AUXILIARY

Application
Due
Feburary 1st

GET YOU STARTED SCHOLARSHIP 2025

If you want something you have never had, you have to do something you have never done!

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION:

- Provide education fund assistance to an individual who is an outstanding citizen wishing to seek further education in any career path.
- Awarded at the Annual FFAM Convention, Date and Location TBD.
- Scholarship will be sent directly to the institution of choice upon proof of enrollment.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must have direct relationship or be a member of the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri and/or Auxiliary
- Provide 3 letters of reference
- Complete a 3-5 paragraph essay answering the provided prompt on application.

PDF APPLICATION
VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.FFAM.ORG/AUXILIARY/



SCAN ME
ONLINE APPLICATION

SUBMIT YOUR REGISTRATION TO:



auxiliaryffam@gmail.com

MORE INFORMATION:



auxiliaryffam@gmail.com

INTRODUCING THE FIREFIGHTER CANCER SUPPORT NETWORK: A LIFELINE FOR FIREFIGHTERS

Firefighters face unique challenges in their line of duty, and unfortunately, cancer is becoming an all-too-frequent adversary. The Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN) is dedicated to standing by these brave individuals and their families as they navigate the difficult terrain of cancer diagnosis and treatment.

What is the Firefighter Cancer Support Network?

Founded in 2005 by Michael Dubron, a firefighter-paramedic and cancer survivor, FCSN aims to provide essential support, resources, and education to firefighters affected by cancer. The organization is committed to creating a strong community that fosters resilience and hope in the face of adversity.

Services Offered by FCSN

FCSN offers a range of comprehensive services tailored specifically for firefighters and their loved ones:

- Cancer Support Toolbox: FCSN provides a free support toolbox filled with invaluable resources that help individuals understand their diagnosis, navigate treatment options, and begin the recovery process.
- Peer Support Programs: The badge-to-badge mentoring program connects firefighters with trained volunteer mentors, many of whom have fought their own battles with cancer. This program offers personalized support and guidance from someone who truly understands the journey.
- One-on-One Counseling: FCSN offers immediate access to one-on-one mentorship for both active and retired firefighters,

as well as their families. This personalized approach includes emotional support and practical insights during one of life's most challenging times.

 Education and Awareness: FCSN is a strong advocate for cancer awareness in the firefighting community. The organization conducts nationwide training sessions to educate firefighters about the specific risks they face and promote preventive health measures.

The Need for Support

The statistics surrounding cancer in the firefighting profession are alarming. Cancer accounts for approximately 65-70% of line-of-duty deaths, making it imperative for firefighters to access resources that will help them mitigate risks and find support when diagnosed.

How You Can Get Involved

FCSN not only serves as a safety net for those affected but also relies on the support of the firefighting community. Here are some ways you can help:

- Make a Donation: Contributions ensure that resources remain available for firefighters and their families facing cancer.
- Volunteer: Whether it's directly supporting those in need or helping with organizational efforts, volunteers are crucial to FCSN's mission.
- Participate in Events: Get involved in community events like the **Annual 5K Run to Remember** and the Memorial Golf Outing, which raise funds and create unity among firefighters.

The new Missouri State Director is Lisa Sanneman, a cancer survivor and a dedicated fire wife. Lisa has been actively involved in cancer support groups since completing her treatment for Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 2008. She was a pillar of support for her husband, Steve Sanneman of the Liberty Fire Department, through his battles with Renal Cell Carcinoma in 2022 and Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer in 2024. Lisa's personal experiences and unwavering support for her husband have fueled her passion for helping others facing similar challenges. You can reach out to Lisa through the FCSN website https:// www.firefightercancersupport.org/ or directly via email at Isanneman@ fcsn.net.

By introducing FCSN to your fire department, you can help cultivate a supportive environment for those who may face cancer in the future. Together, we can build a network of strength and resilience for firefighters and their families. Discover more about the essential services provided by the Firefighter Cancer Support Network at firefightercancersupport.org.



WE SERVE YOU...SO YOU CAN SERVE OTHERS!

DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

FireCraft Safety Products



NFPA certified structural firefighting gloves give you longer wear, protection, fit and the superior dexterity you need for the toughest, most dangerous jobs. All FireCraft® Gloves come with a Lifetime Warranty on Workmanship and Materials.



Danko Rescue Truck Ready for Immediate Delivery

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Danko Pumper/Tanker T-0465

Cole County Fire Protection District - Jefferson City, MO

Danko Pumper/Tanker, Freightliner M2-106, Cummins L9 Engine, HO Bostrom SCBA Seats, 1500 GPM Hale DSD Pump, Front Bumper Extension, On Spot Chains, Coffin Compartment Storage on Top, Custom Whelen Lighting Package, Booster Reel with 150ft of Line in Rear Compartment, Custom Shelving and Storage and much more....



STEVE BORTS

Sales Professional Jamestown, MO

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Tradition that leads. Innovation that protects.

Built on the proven "wireframe" SCBA backframe and pneumatics platform, the $3M^{\text{TM}}$ Scott $^{\text{TM}}$ Air-Pak $^{\text{TM}}$ XD SCBA focuses on today's firefighter who requires an extreme duty SCBA, while maintaining cleanability, comfort, and connectivity.



Trusted Design.

Rugged wireformed backframe maintains a low-profile design and is engineered for improved usability, durability, and serviceability.



Peace of Mind.

Safety features like the integrated drag rescue loop, dual-redundant pressure reducer, and the "buddy" lights ensure firefighters are protected, monitored, and prepared in every situation.



Contact Feld Fire for a demo of the new 3M Scott Air-Pak XD!

◆ FeldFire.com

