



Hugh McDonald
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Clint O'Neal
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
ARKANSAS ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMO

TO: Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders
FROM: AEDC, Division of Rural Services
RE: Arkansas Rural Community Grant Program, FY 25, Cycle 2
DATE: June 4, 2025

PURPOSE:

To present funding recommendations from AEDC Rural Services for the Arkansas Rural Community Grant Program

BACKGROUND:

Each fiscal year, AEDC Rural Services receives legislative appropriation to award funds from the above-named grant programs. Applications received by AEDC Rural Services go through the following process:

1. Reviewed for eligibility by Rural Services staff;
2. Eligible applications and rankings are then reviewed by the Rural Development Commission;
3. Recommendations are forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce and Governor
4. Recommendations are forwarded to Legislative Council for final approval.

COMMUNITIES IMPACTED:

- Cities and towns with a population of less than 3,000 (no limit on unincorporated areas). Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, community centers, fire stations, parks, storm sirens, storm shelters, beautification projects and any equipment associated. The cap for this grant program is \$15,000 and requires a 50/50 match from all applicants.

PROPOSED FUNDING:

Total amount of funding available for Fiscal Year 2025: **\$700,000.00**

Funding previously awarded for Cycle 1 of Fiscal Year 2025: **\$357,237.26** (Awarded November 12, 2024)

Amount requested from recommended applications for Cycle 2 of Fiscal Year 2025: **\$371,252.77**

Amount of total funding awarded (Cycle 1) and pending funding recommendations (Cycle 2): \$728,490.03

***(Overage of \$28,490.03 will come from the Division of Rural Services Operations Budget if approved)**

RECOMMENDATION:

AEDC Rural Services requests your approval on the funding recommendations for the programs listed above. Attachments outlining recommendations for each program are included with this memo. These recommendations were approved by the Rural Development Commission on March 28, 2025 and by Secretary of Commerce, Hugh McDonald and AEDC Executive Director, Clint O'Neal on April 4, 2025.

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders

Date

Arkansas Rural Community Grant Program

Complete and Eligible Applications

Fiscal Year: 2025

Cycle: 2

Applicant	County	Project Summary	Previous Funded Narrative	Senator	Rep	Requested	Recommended
Cotter-Gassville RFPD	Baxter	RESUBMIT: The Cotter-Gassville FPD is requesting \$14,413.82 in funding to purchase new tires for three vehicles, 600 ft. hose, rapid attack monitor, nozzle and mounting bracket, extraction tool and two rope bags with carabiners.	Cotter-Gassville RFPD received \$14,443.08 in 2024 to purchase equipment for the Fire Department: Tires for vehicles, taker an engine and a brush truck, 50 ft hose, rapid attack monitor, nozzle and mounting bracket as well as jaws of life.	Flippo	Fortner	\$14,413.82	\$14,413.82
NEBCO Fire & EMS	Benton	NEBCO EMS is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase a battery powered ram, booster pump for air bottles, rescue boat and man water rescue kit.	NEBCO Fire & EMS received \$15,000.00 in 2023 to aid in the purchase of Jaws of Life equipment.	Bryant	McKenzie	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
City Of Diamond City	Boone	The city of Diamond City is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to repair the public restrooms in Dietz Park. They would like to expand the existing restrooms to allow for accessibility, new plumbing, electrical and a mini split to allow for heating and cooling.		Flippo	Breaux	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
Valley Springs FD	Boone	The Valley Springs Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase turnout gear.		Flippo	McNair	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Town Of Oak Grove	Carroll	The town of Oak Grove is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to install a pavilion and pickleball court with sidewalk to parking lot and picnic tables in their city park.	The Town of Oak Grove received \$15,000.00 in 2020 to aid in paving a walking trail and adding new playground equipment at its city park.	King	Breaux	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
Pansy FD	Cleveland	The Pansy VFD is requesting \$4,024.00 in funding to purchase new fire hoses.		Gilmore	Holcomb	\$4,024.00	\$4,024.00
Woodlawn VFD	Cleveland	The Woodlawn VFD is requesting \$6,758.75 in funding to purchase new front and rear tires for their water tankers.	The Woodlawn VFD received \$11,278.10 in 2024 to update the fire protection equipment to include radios.	Gilmore	Holcomb	\$6,758.75	\$0.00
Brookland FPD	Craighead	Resubmit after being ineligible due to open grant: The Brookland FPD is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase new fire protection equipment.	The Brookland VFD received \$15,000.00 in 2023 to purchase an air compressor along with items for the compressor such as fans, batteries etc...	Wallace	Milligan	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00

City Of Bono	Craighead	The city of Bono is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to replace the heat and air units in the bono senior center/designated safe shelter. They are also using funds to create their emergency room/shelter in the senior center.	The city of Bono received \$15,000.00 in 2025 to update their city park.	Sullivan	Cavanaugh	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Lake City FD	Craighead	The Lake City Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase a new set of Jaws of Life tools (extrication equipment).	The Lake City Fire Department received \$7,169.97 in 2024 to purchase updated SCBA bottles.	Wallace	Milligan	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
City of Cedarville	Crawford	The city of Cedarville is requesting \$5,094.29 in funding to renovate their city parks playground to include a toddler safe area.		Petty	Hall	\$5,094.29	\$0.00
City Of Mulberry	Crawford	The City of Mulberry is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase a ground penetrating radar to accurately locate and map underground utilities throughout the city.	The city of Mulberry received \$9,453.71 in 2025 (CY 1) to add lights and netting to their pickleball courts.	Petty	Puryear	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
Dyer Fire Department	Crawford	The Dyer Fire Department is requesting \$9,844.56 in funding to purchase and replace equipment for their pumper truck.		Petty	Hall	\$9,844.56	\$9,844.56
Cherry Valley FD	Cross	The Cherry Valley FD is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase fourteen new Scott cylinders to aid in the extrication of trapped individuals (jaws of life equipment).	The Cherry Valley FD received \$15,000 in 2013 to construct a new fire station.	Caldwell	Hollowell	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Altus Rural FPD	Franklin	The Altus RFD is requesting \$3,500.00 in funding to add a bay door to their fire station and remodel the inside for a training room.	The City of Altus received \$15,000.00 in 2017 to purchase a mini pumper truck.	Stubblefield	Eaton	\$3,350.00	\$3,500.00
Watalula VFD	Franklin	The Watalula VFD is requesting \$4,375.00 in funding to purchase new radios.	The Watalula Volunteer Fire Department received \$15,000.00 in 2020 to purchase a used fire engine to replace an existing 40 year old engine.	King		\$4,375.00	\$4,375.00
Sturkie VFD	Fulton	Sturkie VFD is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase new SCBAS and face masks.	Sturkie VFD received \$12,810.00 in 2019 to purchase a transport skid unit for the truck, 2 SCBAs and 2 sets of turnout gear.	Irvin	Steimel	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Grapevine FD	Grant	The Grapevine Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase a new skid unit UTV to aid in the their rescue unit. This will aid in fire outbreaks and rescues for which trucks cannot reach.		Gilmore	Mayberry	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00

City Of Washington	Hempstead	The city of Washington is requesting \$15,000.00 to aid in the purchase of a new tractor for the maintenance needs of the city and storm debris removal.	The city of Washington has never received funds directly, but the fire department has received two grants recently 2024 still open.	Crowell	Henley	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Mineral Springs	Howard	The city of Mineral Springs is requesting \$14,900.00 in funding to purchase playground equipment for their city park.	The city of Mineral Springs has never received funding, but the fire department received funds in 2010.	Hickey, Jr.	Henley	\$14,900.00	\$0.00
Izard County	Izard	Izard County is applying on behalf of the community of Flat Rock for \$15,000.00 in funding to repair the community center's roof and structural issues with the ceiling and trusses.	Flat Rock has not received funding in the past.	Flippo	Walker	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
City Of Tuckerman	Jackson	The city of Tuckerman is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase items for their open air farmers market and signage. Items include a pavilion, LED sign, electrical work, brick work, metal benches and trash cans.	The City of Tuckerman received \$4,950.00 in 2019 to rehabilitate 9 fire hydrants throughout the city.	Caldwell	Tosh	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
City Of Stamps	Lafayette	The city of Stamps is requesting \$14,818.84 in funding to purchase items to refurbish the towns senior center. The building was damaged in a flood and the building was repaired using CDBG funding, however, the buildings furnishings were all ruined and not replaced with CDBG. This request is specifically for appliances (microwave, coffee maker, refrigerator, freezer, etc.), TV's, desks, office chairs, folding chair rack, first aid kit, storage cabinet, metal book shelves, projector, lectern, treadmill, exercise bikes, massage chair, bottle filling station, dry erase board, signage, security system, ethernet cable, folding table cart and nesting folding tables.		Crowell	Andrews	\$14,818.84	\$0.00
Cerro Gordo FD	Little River	The Cerro Gordo FD is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to replace a 1986 fire vehicle. It will serve as a rapid response vehicle for medical and fire emergencies.		Hickey, Jr.	Vaught	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
City Of Scranton	Logan	The city of Scranton is requesting \$8,142.00 in funding to install a fence around the perimeter of the Scranton City Park.	The City of Scranton received \$10,750.00 in 2019 to install new storm sirens.	Stubblefield	Eubanks	\$8,142.00	\$0.00
Town Of Caulksville	Logan	The town of Caulksville is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to construct a pavilion in its new city park which was established recently with the FUN park grant in 2024.		Stubblefield	Eubanks	\$15,000.00	\$0.00

Town Of Keo	Lonoke	The town of Keo is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to make improvements to the city park. They plan to add a drinking fountain, planters and shade sails.	The city of Keo received \$13,200.00 in 2022 to install a new storm warning siren.	Flowers	Lynch	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
Oakland Promise Land RFPD	Marion	The Oakland Promise Land FPD is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to replace their 1988 rescue truck with a newer model which has a larger water take and a powered pump. This is part of a larger project, total project cost is \$50,000.00	The Oakland Promise Land FPD received \$15,000.00 in 2024 to purchase new Fire Engine Truck to replace their 44 year old truck. \$109,000 total project cost.	Flippo	Nazarenko	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
Peel VFD	Marion	The Peel VFD is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to aid in the purchase a replacement pumper truck.	Peel Volunteer Fire Department received \$15,000.00 in 2019 to construct Peel Fire Department Station #3.	Flippo	Nazarenko	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Leachville FD	Mississippi	The Leachville FD is requesting \$9,143.00 in funding to paint the interior of their newly constructed fire station.	Leachville FD received \$15,000 in 2016 for phase one of the construction of a new substation.	Wallace	Milligan	\$9,143.00	\$0.00
City Of Mount Ida	Montgomery	The city of Mount Ida is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to establish a foundational infrastructure for their Veterans Memorial flag display. The entirety of the match will be from donated labor.		Rice	Maddox	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Perryville VFD	Perry	The Perryville VFD is requesting \$13,699.44 in funding to purchase new turnout gear.	(tried to submit this grant in 2024, but were not successful as it was very incomplete).	Rice	Bentley	\$13,699.44	\$13,699.44
City of Antoine	Pike	The city of Antoine is requesting \$9,000.00 in funding to upgrade the electrical work in their community center.		Crowell	Gonzales	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00
Murfreesboro FD	Pike	The Murfreesboro FD is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase new SCBAS which includes facepieces, air cylinders, air packs and rechargeable batteries.	FD has never received funding before, but city has received funding in 2021.	Crowell	Gonzales	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
City of Grannis	Polk	The city of Grannis is requesting \$12,870.99 in funding to purchase a new storm siren for the north city limits.	The town of Grannis received \$15,000.00 in 2021 to purchase two storm sirens.	Rice	Maddox	\$12,870.99	\$12,870.99
City Of DeValls Bluff	Prairie	The city of DeValls Bluff is requesting \$15,000.00 to aid in the purchase of a new storm siren.		Caldwell	Moore	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
City Of Hazen	Prairie	The city of Hazen is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to renovate the restroom and fencing at the Hazen Ballpark Complex	The city of Hazen received \$14,850.00 in 2023 to construct a new roof on their indoor batting facility.	Caldwell	Lynch	\$15,000.00	\$0.00

Marshall FD	Searcy	The Marshall Fire Department is requesting \$11,006.25 in funding to replace a set of hydraulic jaws of life for a battery operated set. This is part of a larger grant project with USDA.	The city of Marshall has received many RCGP grants, but the Fire Department has never received one.	Irvin	Walker	\$11,006.25	\$11,006.25
Town Of Gilbert	Searcy	The town of Gilbert is requesting \$14,309.75 in funding to install a full kitchen in the existing fire station/community center to create a community space. The space currently is extra storage, and will be easily converted into a kitchen/community room for all to utilize.	The city of Gilbert is requesting \$9,000.00 in 2020 to renovate the Gilbert VFD to include removing existing siding and the installation of new metal siding, repainting garage doors and lettering, etc....	Irvin	Walker	\$14,309.75	\$14,309.75
Welcome Home Community	Searcy	The Welcome Home Community is requesting \$9,000.00 in funding to complete the construction of an outdoor pavilion at its new community park/walking trail. This project was part of the FUN grant they received, but did not have enough funds to complete.		Irvin	Walker	\$9,000.00	\$0.00
Milltown-Washburn RFPD	Sebastian	The Milltown-Washburn FPD is requesting \$14,599.00 in funding to replace their outdated pumper truck equipment.		Stubblefield	Eubanks	\$14,599.00	\$14,599.00
White Bluff - Rye Hill RFPD	Sebastian	The White Bluff - Rye Hill VFD is requesting \$14,607.51 in funding to purchase items for their fire truck and unit: battery operated fan, nozzles, hoses and gated wyes.		Rice	Johnson	\$14,607.51	\$14,607.51
Horatio FD	Sevier	The Horatio Fire Department is requesting \$5,002.45 to purchase radios and AED machines.	The city has received funding in 2023, but fire department never has.	Hickey, Jr.	Vaught	\$5,002.45	\$5,002.45
Hardy VFD	Sharp	The Hardy VFD is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase 32 new SCBAS and 16 masks.		Payton	Steimel	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
City Of Fairfield Bay	Van Buren	The City of Fairfield Bay is requesting \$4,250.00 in funding to purchase LED lighting for the interior and exterior of the senior center.	The City of Fairfield Bay received \$6,355.72 in 2018 to purchase heating and air conditioning at the city center kitchen facilities. They have had a recent Fire Protection project however, it is closed out.	Irvin	Meeks	\$4,250.00	\$0.00
Lincoln FD	Washington	The Lincoln Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase equipment and turnout gear.	The Lincoln Fire Department received \$15,000.00 in 2024 to purchase extrication equipment.	Dees	Moore	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00

Town Of Goshen	Washington	The city of Goshen is requesting \$7,466.00 in funding to add electricity at the trailhead site. This is part of a larger project to add a welcome pavilion to their park's trailhead.		Petty	Puryear	\$7,466.00	\$0.00
West Fork FD	Washington	The West Fork Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to replace old and unserviceable gear: turnouts, helmets, gloves etc.		Petty	Moore	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Albion Volunteer FD	White	The Albion VFD is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase four SCBA units.		Dismang	Pearce	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
City of Pangburn	White	The City of Pangburn is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to resurface their city park walking trail. The trail needs to be resurfaced and brought up to ADA Standards.	The city has not received funding for a community project, but the Fire Department has received many grants.	Dismang	Pearce	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
Town Of Rose Bud	White	The town of Rose Bud is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to remodel their community center: remove ceiling tiles, remove and replace cabinets, replace counters and sinks, backsplash, remove flooring, sheetrock repair, painting and installing an awning and HVAC. This is a larger scale remodel with the total cost being \$80,492.36	The City of Rose Bud received \$5,075.00 in 2010 to install a child safety area in the park.	Dismang	Cooper	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
City of McCrory	Woodruff	The city of McCrory is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase new scoreboards for their baseball fields, rehab the fields and add concrete under the bleachers.	The City of McCrory is received \$12,147 in 2014 to make improvements to their city park.	Caldwell	Moore	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
						Total Requested	Recommended
						\$660,675.65	\$371,252.77