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**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

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LINCOLN, Neb. — The Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) has announced the recipients of the 2017 Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grants. VFA grants allow the NFS to award funding to qualifying rural fire districts for financial, technical, and assistance projects that support their missions of protecting lives and property during wildfires.

This year, 70 rural fire districts will receive more than \$219,000 in direct funding from the grant, aiding in the completion of \$585,633 worth of projects and acquisitions around the state. Due to high demand, the maximum award was \$5,000 per application.

“The VFA grants are an extremely beneficial asset to firefighting in Nebraska. With these dollars, fire districts are able to focus on their priority needs without sacrificing the many services they provide to folks in their communities,” said NFS Deputy Director, John Erixson.

Awards are utilized for departments’ priority requests such as personal protective equipment, prevention, and communication gear. Nearly \$3.5 million has been awarded to 368 fire departments and partners around the state over the past 20 years.

**Recipients and award amounts are listed alphabetically by fire district.**

Entity	Award	County	City
Abie Volunteer Fire District	\$1,300.00	Butler	Abie
Aurora Volunteer Fire District	\$5,000.00	Hamilton	Aurora
Banner County Volunteer Fire District	\$5,000.00	Harrisburg	Harrisburg
Battle Creek Volunteer Fire & Rescue	\$1,750.00	Madison	Battle Creek
Bellwood Rural Fire District #5	\$4,700.00	Butler	Bellwood
Bertrand Volunteer Fire District	\$5,000.00	Phelps	Bertrand
Blair Volunteer Fire District	\$3,200.00	Washington	Blair
Brewster Rural Fire District	\$3,500.00	Blaine	Brewster
Bushnell-Johnson Rural Fire District	\$5,000.00	Kimball	Bushnell
Cedar Bluffs Suburban Fire	\$1,500.00	Saunders	Cedar Bluffs

Clarks Volunteer Fire District	\$2,300.00	Merrick	Clarks
Colon Volunteer Fire District	\$4,200.00	Saunders	Fremont
Creighton Volunteer Fire District	\$3,700.00	Knox	Creighton
Curtis Volunteer Fire District	\$5,000.00	Frontier/Lincoln	Curtis
Dannebrog Volunteer Fire & Rescue	\$690.00	Howard	Dannebrog
Dodge County Mutual Aid	\$1,000.00	Dodge	Winslow
Douglas Volunteer Fire District	\$2,000.00	Otoe	Douglas
East Central NE Fire Prevention Co-op	\$200.00	Multiple	Schuyler
Fremont Rural Fire District	\$5,000.00	Dodge	Fremont
Friend Volunteer Fire District	\$5,000.00	Saline	Friend
Genoa Volunteer Fire District	\$2,600.00	Nance	Genoa
Gering Valley Rural Fire District	\$2,500.00	Scottsbluff	Gering
Giltner Rural Fire District	\$5,000.00	Hamilton	Giltner
Gordon Volunteer Fire District	\$2,800.00	Sheridan	Gordon
Grant Volunteer Fire District	\$1,000.00	Perkins	Grant
Guide Rock Rural Fire District	\$3,700.00	Webster	Superior
Hays Springs Volunteer Fire District	\$1,250.00	Sheridan	Hays Springs
Holdrege Fire Dept.	\$5,000.00	Phelps	Holdrege
Holstein Rural Fire Dept.	\$2,400.00	Adams	Roseland
Homer Volunteer Fire District	\$4,000.00	Dakota	Homer
Ithaca Volunteer Fire District	\$3,500.00	Saunders	Ithaca
Juniata Rural Fire District	\$4,500.00	Adams	Juniata
Linwood Volunteer Fire District	\$2,200.00	Butler	Schuyler
Linwood Volunteer Fire District	\$500.00	Butler	Schuyler
Long Pine Rural Fire District	\$4,300.00	Brown	Long Pine
Malmo Rural Fire District #3	\$5,000.00	Saunders	Malmo
Marquette Volunteer Fire & Rescue	\$4,900.00	Hamilton	Marquette
Minatare/Melbeta Fire & Rescue	\$5,000.00	Scottsbluff	Minatare
Minden Volunteer Fire District	\$3,800.00	Kearney	Minden
Mitchell Volunteer Fire District	\$1,700.00	Scottsbluff	Mitchell
Nebraska Firefighters Museum	\$400.00	Multiple	Schuyler

Nebraska State Fire Marshal - Training Division	\$5,000.00	Lancaster	Lincoln
Nebraska Society of Fire Service Instructors	\$2,200.00	Multiple	Lincoln
Nehawka Rural Volunteer Fire District	\$1,100.00	Cass	Nehawka
Neligh Volunteer Fire District	\$2,800.00	Antelope	Neligh
Newcastle Fire and Rescue	\$1,400.00	Dixon	Newcastle
North Bend Rural Fire District	\$5,000.00	Dodge	North Bend
Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association Fire Prevention	\$750.00	Multiple	Schuyler
Ord Volunteer Fire District	\$4,100.00	Valley	Ord
Orleans Fire & Rescue	\$2,500.00	Harlan	Orleans
Oxford Volunteer Fire District	\$4,000.00	Furnas	Oxford
Peru Volunteer Fire District	\$5,000.00	Nemaha	Peru
Phillips Volunteer Fire District	\$2,800.00	Hamilton	Phillips
Plattsmouth Rural Fire District	\$3,300.00	Cass	Plattsmouth
Ponca Volunteer Fire & Rescue	\$225.00	Dixon	Ponca
Potter Volunteer Fire District	\$5,000.00	Cheyenne	Potter
Prague Volunteer Fire District	\$3,500.00	Saunders	Malmo
Primrose Rural Fire District	\$4,500.00	Boone	Primrose
Ravenna Fire & Rescue	\$3,900.00	Buffalo	Ravenna
Red Willow Western Rural Fire District	\$750.00	Red Willow	McCook
Rushville Volunteer Fire District	\$2,300.00	Sheridan	Gordon
Sandhills Fire Protection District	\$1,250.00	Grant	Hyannis
Sidney Volunteer Fire District	\$4,900.00	Cheyenne	Sidney
Spalding Rural Fire	\$2,500.00	Greeley	Spalding
St. Edward Fire & Rescue	\$4,000.00	Boone	St. Edward
Stanton Volunteer Fire District	\$2,000.00	Stanton	Stanton
Verdon Volunteer Fire District	\$1,600.00	Richardson	Verdon
Winslow Rural Fire District	\$5,000.00	Dodge	Winslow
Wood Lake Fire Dept.	\$2,000.00	Cherry	Wood Lake
Yutan Rural Fire District	\$4,800.00	Saunders	Yutan

**TOTAL**

**\$219,265.00**