

Utah Fire Department Assistance Grant Committee

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- Wes Ashton:** Div. of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, Fire Program Specialist washton@utah.gov
- Jon Ritchie:** Utah State Fire Marshal, representing State Fire Marshal's Office, jritchie@utah.gov
- Marc McElreath:** Utah Fire & Rescue Academy, Assistant Director of Operations, representing UFRA, marcm@uvu.edu
- Aaron Byington:** Syracuse Fire Dept. Chief, representing Career Fire Service, abyington@syracuseut.gov
- Earl Levanger:** Orderville Fire Chief, representing Volunteer Fire Service, ordervillefd@gmail.com
- Sierra Hellstrom:** R4 U.S.F.S. Cooperative Fire Program, State & Private & Tribal Forestry (S&P&T), representing VFA fund, sierra.hellstrom@usda.gov

Recommended Timeline:

Activity	Purpose	Date
Grant Committee Coordination	Status of current grant Review objectives/priorities Review applications and make necessary changes.	January 15th, 2026
Application period	Mail out application notification Post application on Div. of FFSL website.	February 2nd, 2026
Applications due		February 27th, 2026
Grant Committee Meeting Review Applications	The grant committee reviews F.D. ranking and provides input. Establish final rankings and awards to the departments.	March 5th afternoon, 2026 Location Wildland Fire Ops Center
Notify Departments of awards or no award	Required before departments can begin spending grant money.	March 18th, 2026
Deadline to spend grant funds	Invoices and/or proof of purchase due to the State Office.	May 15th, 2026 1700 hours
Second Round	Spend all funds allocated for 2026.	TBD
Winter/Spring Fire Schools	Turn in invoices for funds allocated for WFS	May 15th, 2026 1700

Grant Application and Guidance online at: <https://ffsl.utah.gov/fire/fire-grants/>

Agency	USFS	Utah FFSL
Historical amount available	250-350K est.	100-200K
Can be used for:	Wildland for PPE, Training & Communication	Wildland or Structure Fire Training & Equipment, Prevention
Population requirement	<10,000	None
Maximum award	\$10,000 per item, \$10,000 max award	\$10,000.00
Reporting	Grant Accomplishment Report Portal (GARP)	Report as requested to the FFSL
Priorities	Set by the U.S.F.S. & Grant Committee	Increase firefighting capacity
Common Requirements	Reporting fire activity in NFIRS/NERIS, NIMS Compliant and must have 50% wildland certified firefighters.	

The Utah Fire Department Assistance Grant is comprised of different funding sources from different entities with slightly different requirements. The committee Combines both funding sources into one program so it is seamless for the fire departments.