



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

April 27, 2023

Senator Terry Rice, Chair
Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council
Room 315, State Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72202

Dear Senator Rice and Representative Wardlaw:

Pursuant to Act 218 of 2022, the Arkansas Economic Development Commission's Division of Rural Services is submitting the Rural Community Grants, Cycle 2 of Fiscal Year 2023 for review and approval from the Arkansas Legislative Council.

These grants were approved by Governor Sanders on April 26, 2023, the Arkansas Rural Development Commission on March 20, 2023, and Executive Director, Clint O'Neal on March 30, 2023. Included are the grants for approval, along with the Governor's approval.

If you have any questions regarding the submitted grants, or if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me or Becca Caldwell, Director of the Division of Rural Services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clint O'Neal".

Clint O'Neal
Executive Director

Arkansas Rural Community Grant Program

Funding Recommendations

Fiscal Year: 2023
Cycle: 2

Applicant	County	Senator	Representative	Requested	Project Summary	Recommended Amount
City Of Hamburg	Ashley County	Ben Gilmore	Howard Beaty, Jr.	\$5,763.56	The city of Hamburg is requesting \$5,763.56 in funding to purchase picnic tables for their town square, they will be ADA compliant.	\$5,763.56
Clarkridge Fire Department	Baxter County	Scott Flippo	Nelda Speaks	\$15,000.00	The Clarkridge Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 to purchase a heavy duty pickup truck and utility box.	\$15,000.00
Highfill Volunteer Fire Department	Benton County	Bart Hester	Kendon Underwood	\$15,000.00	The Highfill VFD is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase SCBA units.	\$15,000.00
NEBCO Fire & EMS	Benton County	Joshua Bryant	Brit McKenzie	\$15,000.00	NEBCO Fire & EMS is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to aid in the purchase of Jaws of Life equipment.	\$15,000.00
City Of Green Forest	Carroll County	Bryan King	Mark Berry	\$15,000.00	The city of Green Forest is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase a shade structure for their city ball park.	\$15,000.00
Degray Rural Volunteer Fire Station	Clark County	Steve Crowell	Richard Womack	\$5,684.44	The DeGray VFD is requesting \$5,684.44 to replace one full set of protective gear and equipment.	\$5,684.44
City Of McNeil	Columbia County	Steve Crowell	Wade Andrews	\$15,000.00	The city of McNeil is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to repair the roof on the community center, which is currently used as a city run day care.	\$15,000.00
Brookland Fire Protection District	Craighead County	Dave Wallace	Jon Milligan	\$15,000.00	The Brookland VFD is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase an air compressor along with items for the compressor such as fans and batteries.	\$15,000.00
Community of Turner	Crawford County	Jim Petty	Chad Puryear	\$7,068.65	The community of Turner is requesting \$7,068.65 in funding to purchase two air conditioning units for their community center.	\$7,068.65
New Blaine Fire Department	Logan County	Gary Stubblefield	Jon S. Eubanks	\$15,000.00	The New Blaine Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase a generator for their fire department.	\$15,000.00
City Of Humnoke	Lonoke County	Stephanie Flowers	Roger Lynch	\$14,250.00	The city of Humnoke is requesting \$14,250.00 in funding to purchase a new storm warning siren.	\$14,250.00
Scott Fire Protection District	Lonoke County	Linda Chesterfield	Roger Lynch	\$15,000.00	The Scott Fire Protection District is requesting \$15,000.00 to aid in the purchase of 16 SCBA units (\$70,000 total project cost).	\$15,000.00
Oakland Promise Land FPD	Marion County	Scott Flippo	Jack Fortner	\$15,000.00	The Oakland Promise Land FPD is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase a high capacity water pump and water fill truck.	\$15,000.00
City Of Keiser	Mississippi County	Dave Wallace	Jon Milligan	\$15,000.00	The city of Keiser is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase new park playground equipment.	\$15,000.00

Applicant	County	Senator	Representative	Requested	Project Summary	Recommended Amount
City Of Holly Grove	Monroe County	Ronald Caldwell	Mark McElroy	\$5,593.50	The city of Holly Grove is requesting \$5,593.50 in funding to renovate their emergency shelter's food preparation station.	\$5,593.50
Town Of Hector	Pope County	Breanne Davis	Stan Berry	\$15,000.00	The city of Hector is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to repair the city's public sidewalks.	\$15,000.00
City Of Hazen	Prairie County	Ronald Caldwell	Roger Lynch	\$14,850.00	The city of Hazen is requesting \$14,850.00 in funding to construct a new roof on their indoor batting facility.	\$14,850.00
State Line Volunteer Fire Department	Scott County	Terry Rice	Marcus E. Richmond	\$15,000.00	State Line VFD is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to construct a new fire station (\$75,000.00 total project cost) to replace their 30 year old wooden station.	\$15,000.00
Community of Snowball	Searcy County	Missy Irvin	Steven Walker	\$8,000.00	The Community of Snowball is requesting \$8,000.00 in funding to construct a restroom into the pavilion in their city park.	\$8,000.00
Searcy County	Searcy County	Missy Irvin	Stephen Walker	\$15,000.00	Searcy County is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to redo their civic center's electrical work, trim exterior doors and windows.	\$15,000.00
City Of Horatio	Sevier County	Jimmy Hickey, Jr.	DeAnn Vaught	\$15,000.00	The city of Horatio is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to construct a farmers market area and pocket park.	\$15,000.00
City Of Ash Flat	Sharp County	Bart Schulz	John Payton	\$15,000.00	The city of Ash Flat is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase a large play structure to be installed at the city park.	\$15,000.00
Grange Calamine Volunteer FD	Sharp County	John Patton	Bart Schulz	\$15,000.00	Grange Calamine Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to construct two bays for housing fire trucks. This will be an add on to their existing station.	\$15,000.00
Wheatley Fire Department	St. Francis County	Ronald Caldwell	Steve Hollowell	\$14,500.00	The Wheatley Fire Department is requesting \$14,500.00 in funding to purchase new turnout gear for their firefighters.	\$14,500.00
Boston Mountain Fire Department	Washington County	Jim Petty	Chad Puryear	\$9,138.00	The Boston Mountain Fire Department is requesting \$9,138.00 in funding to purchase four sets of bunker gear and a new extractor.	\$9,138.00
Lincoln Fire Department	Washington County	Tyler Dees	Kendra Dees	\$15,000.00	The city of Lincoln is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase new sets of turnout gear.	\$15,000.00
				Total Requested:	\$339,848.15	Recommended Amount: \$339,848.15



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: Rural Community Grant Program, Funding Recommendations, Cycle 2
DATE: March 30, 2023

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 \$600,000.00 in funding to eligible applicants of the grant program listed above.

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 Executive Director of the AEDC; Governor; and
4. Recommendations are forwarded to Legislative Council for final approval.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

- Rural Community Grant Program— 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 2023: \$600,000.00**
- **Funding previously awarded for Cycle 1 of Fiscal Year 2023: \$277,586.60** (Awarded November 3, 2022)
- **Amount requested from recommended applications for Cycle 2 of Fiscal Year 2023: \$339,848.15**

Amount of total funding awarded (Cycle 1) and pending funding recommendations (Cycle 2): \$617,434.75

***(Overage of \$17,434.75 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.


 Approved
 APR 12 6, 23