



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

October 24, 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 605 of 2023, the Arkansas Economic Development Commission's Division of Rural Services is submitting the Rural Community Grants, Cycle 1 of state fiscal year 2024 for the review and approval from the Arkansas Legislative Council. This request includes grant funding recommendations for the Rural Services Rural Community and Arkansas Rural Services Block Grant Programs.

These grants were approved by the Arkansas Rural Development Commission on September 26, 2023; Director O'Neal on October 3, 2023; Secretary McDonald on October 4, 2023; and Governor Sanders on October 23, 2023.

If you have any questions regarding the submitted grants, or if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Becca Caldwell", written over a horizontal line.

Becca Caldwell
Director, Division of Rural Services



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

TO: Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders
FROM: Becca Caldwell, Director – Rural Services
RE: FY 24, Cycle 1 Grant Funding Recommendations for Rural Community Grant (RCGP) and Rural Services Block Grant (RSBGP)
DATE: October 10, 2023

PURPOSE:

To present funding recommendations from Rural Services for the Arkansas Rural Community and Arkansas Rural Services Block Grant Programs to Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

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 Governor; and
4. Recommendations are forwarded to Legislative Council for final approval.

COMMUNITIES IMPACTED:

- **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.
- **Rural Services Block Grant Program** – Funding is available to incorporated towns and rural communities with a population of less than 3,000. Additionally, the community population must be at least 51% Low to Moderate income. Eligible projects include: new construction or renovation of community centers, fire stations, or multi-purpose buildings, and the purchase of fire trucks (pumper, tanker, brush or certain service trucks). This grant is made possible through a partnership with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Grants Division. This cap for the grant program is \$75,000 and requires a 10% match.

PROPOSED FUNDING:

- **Rural Community Grant Program (Attachment)**
 - o Total Dollars Requested from Complete and Eligible Applications: \$397,574.54
 - o Amount Available for Distribution: \$600,000.00 (2 cycles)
 - o **Amount of Total Funding Recommendations: \$299,391.46**
- **Arkansas Rural Services Block Grant Program (Attachment)**
 - o Total Dollars Requested from Complete and Eligible Applications: \$517,417.96
 - o Amount Available for Distribution: \$1,000,000.00
 - o **Amount of Total Funding Recommendations: \$517,417.96**



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FROM: Becca Caldwell, Director – Rural Services
RE: FY 24, Cycle 1 Grant Funding Recommendations for Rural Community Grant (RCGP) and Rural Services Block Grant (RSBGP)
DATE: October 10, 2023

These funding recommendations have been approved by the following:

Arkansas Rural Development Commission: September 26, 2023

Clint O'Neal, Executive Director – AEDC: October 3, 2023

Hugh McDonald, Secretary of Commerce: October 4, 2023

RECOMMENDATION:

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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Huckabee Sanders".

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders

A handwritten date in black ink that reads "10/23/2023".

Date

Arkansas Rural Community Grant Program

Complete and Eligible Applications

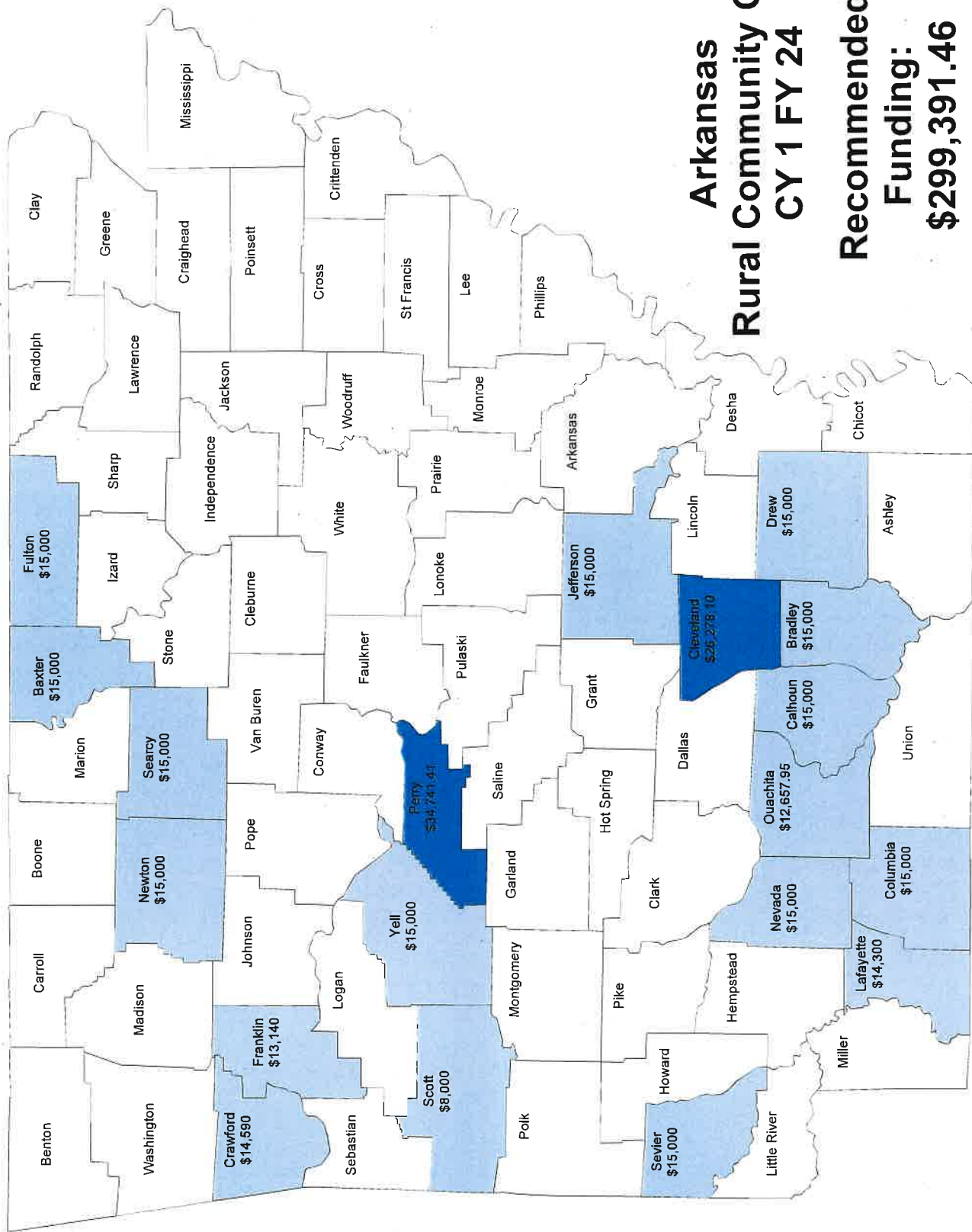
Fiscal Year: 2024
Cycle: 1

Applicant	County	Senator	Representative	Requested	Project Summary	Recommended
Cotter-Gassville Rural Fire Protection District	Baxter County	Flippo	Fortner	\$14,433.08	Cotter-Gassville RFPD is requesting \$14,443.08 in funding to purchase equipment for the Fire Department: Tires for vehicles, take an engine and a brush truck, 50 ft hose, rapid attack monitor, nozzle and mounting bracket as well as jaws of life. Total Cost: \$28,866.16.	\$0.00
Town Of Big Flat	Baxter County	Flippo	Walker	\$15,000.00	The town of Big Flat is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to renovate and update their community center - phase I of project. Total Cost: \$30,000.	\$15,000.00
Banks Fire Department	Bradley County	Gilmore	Barker	\$15,000.00	The Banks Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 to complete the interior renovations (including electrical) to their station. The match is comprised of donated labor only. Total Cost: \$30,000.	\$15,000.00
City Of Hampton	Calhoun County	Stone	Barker	\$15,000.00	The city of Hampton is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to aid in the phase II construction of the Youth Baseball Fields. They will be leveling the field, hydroseed field, fertilizer treatment, replace outfield fence with sheet metal fence and replace outfield side fences with chain-link fence. Total Cost: \$30,000.	\$15,000.00
South Carroll County Fire District	Carroll County	King	Berry	\$15,000.00	The South Carroll County VFD is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase new radios and a new fire suppressor. Total Cost: \$30,000.	\$0.00
City of Rison	Cleveland County	Gilmore	Barker	\$15,000.00	The city of Rison is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to construct a walking and biking trail in Powell Park. This would connect existing trails with Powell Park making the city more accessible to pedestrians. Total Cost: \$30,000.	\$15,000.00
Woodlawn Volunteer Fire Department	Cleveland County	Gilmore	Holcomb	\$11,278.10	The Woodlawn VFD is requesting \$11,278.10 in funding to update their PPE. Total Cost: \$22,556.20	\$11,278.10
Town Of Emerson	Columbia County	Crowell	Jean	\$15,000.00	The town of Emerson is requesting \$15,000.00 to aid in the purchase of a mini-excavator for storm pick up and repairs. Total Cost: \$30,000.	\$15,000.00
Town Of Kibler	Crawford County	Petty	File	\$14,590.00	The town of Kibler is requesting \$14,590.00 in funding to update their park facilities. Total Cost: \$29,180.00.	\$14,590.00
Tillar Fire Department	Drew County	Gilmore	Wardlaw	\$15,000.00	The town of Tillar is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to aid in the purchase of a new fire truck. Total Cost: \$195,500.	\$15,000.00
Branch Fire Department	Franklin County	Stubblefield	Eubanks	\$13,140.00	The Branch Fire Department is requesting \$13,140.00 in funding to purchase two backup generators. Total Cost: \$26,280.00	\$13,140.00

City Of Salem	Fulton County	Flippo	Steimel	\$15,000.00	The city of Salem is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to complete their park grant to construct tennis courts. They have received a FUN park grant for \$75,000.00 and have also dedicated \$71,404.00 from city/county funds (not from FUN park grant) for this project. Total project cost is \$161,401.00.	\$15,000.00
Southeast Jefferson County VFD	Jefferson County	Flowers	Ferguson	\$15,000.00	The Southeast Jefferson County Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to complete renovations of their station including electrical work and HVAC. Total Cost: \$30,000.	\$15,000.00
City Of Buckner	Lafayette County	Crowell	Andrews	\$14,300.00	The city of Buckner is requesting \$14,300.00 in funding to purchase an tractor to be used for mowing, lifting heavy or hazardous objects and maintaining proper drainage. Total Cost: \$28,600.00	\$14,300.00
City Of Foreman	Little River County	Hickey	Vaught	\$15,000.00	The city of Foreman is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to construct a permanent awning and restroom in the pocket "par " between buildings in downtown Foreman for the Farmers Market. The match for this project is made up entirely of donation. Total Cost: \$30,000.	\$0.00
Cale Fire Department	Nevada County	Crowell	Gonzales	\$15,000.00	The Cale Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 to aid in the purchase of a new Fire Truck. Total Cost: \$45,000.	\$15,000.00
City Of Jasper	Newton County	King	Walker	\$15,000.00	The city of Jasper is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to aid in the purchase and installation of scorecards for the baseball fields in Bradley Park. Total Cost: \$30,000.	\$0.00
Parthenon Volunteer Fire Department	Newton County	King	Walker	\$15,000.00	The Parthenon Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to construct a 42' X 40' addition to their existing small fire station. Total Cost: \$30,000.	\$15,000.00
Bragg City	Ouachita County	Stone	Barker	\$12,657.95	The community of Bragg City is requesting \$12,657.95 in funding to purchase 10 new picnic tables and lumber to replace the benches and tabletops of the current picnic tables. Total Cost: \$25,315.90	\$12,657.95
City Of Perryville	Perry County	Rice	Bentley	\$15,000.00	The city of Perryville is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to construct a new pavilion. Total Cost: \$30,000.	\$15,000.00
Perry Volunteer Fire Department	Perry County	Rice	Bentley	\$15,000.00	The Perry Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase new PPE for their fire fighters. Total Cost: \$30,000.	\$15,000.00
Perryville Volunteer Fire Department	Perry County	Rice	Bentley	\$8,750.00	The Perryville Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$8,750.00 in funding to construct a helicopter landing pad at the fire station. This will be the only helipad in central Perry County. Total Cost: \$17,500.	\$0.00
Rose Creek Township	Perry County	Rice	Bentley	\$4,741.41	The Rose Creek Township is requesting \$4,741.41 in funding to resurface the concrete floor of the community building. Total Cost: \$9,482.82	\$4,741.41
Nella Volunteer Fire Department	Scott County	Rice	Richmond	\$8,000.00	The Nella VFD is requesting \$8,000.00 in funding to purchase new radios. Total Cost: \$16,000.	\$8,000.00
City of Marshall	Searcy County	Ivins	Walker	\$15,000.00	The city of Marshall is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to aid in the purchase of a tractor with a plow attachment to help with storm debris pick up. Total Cost: \$30,000	\$15,000.00

Lockesburg Fire Department	Sevier County	Hickey, Jr.	Vaught	\$15,000.00	The Lockesburg Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to aid in the purchase of 8 new SCBAs. Total Cost: \$30,000.	\$0.00
Town Of Gillham	Sevier County	Hickey, Jr.	Vaught	\$15,000.00	The town of Gillham is requesting \$15,000.00 to purchase a storm siren for the towns emergency warning systems. Total Cost: \$30,000.	\$15,000.00
Grange Calamine Volunteer Fire Department	Sharp County	Payton	Schulz	\$15,000.00	The Grange Calamine Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase a fire truck and foam skid. Total Cost: \$30,000.	\$0.00
Plainview Volunteer Fire Department	Yell County	Rice	Bentley	\$10,684.00	The Plainview Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$10,684.00 in funding to purchase PPE sets to replace their outdated ones. Total Cost: \$21,368.	\$10,684.00

Total Requested: \$397,574.54 Recommended Amount: \$299,391.46



Arkansas Rural Community Grant CY 1 FY 24

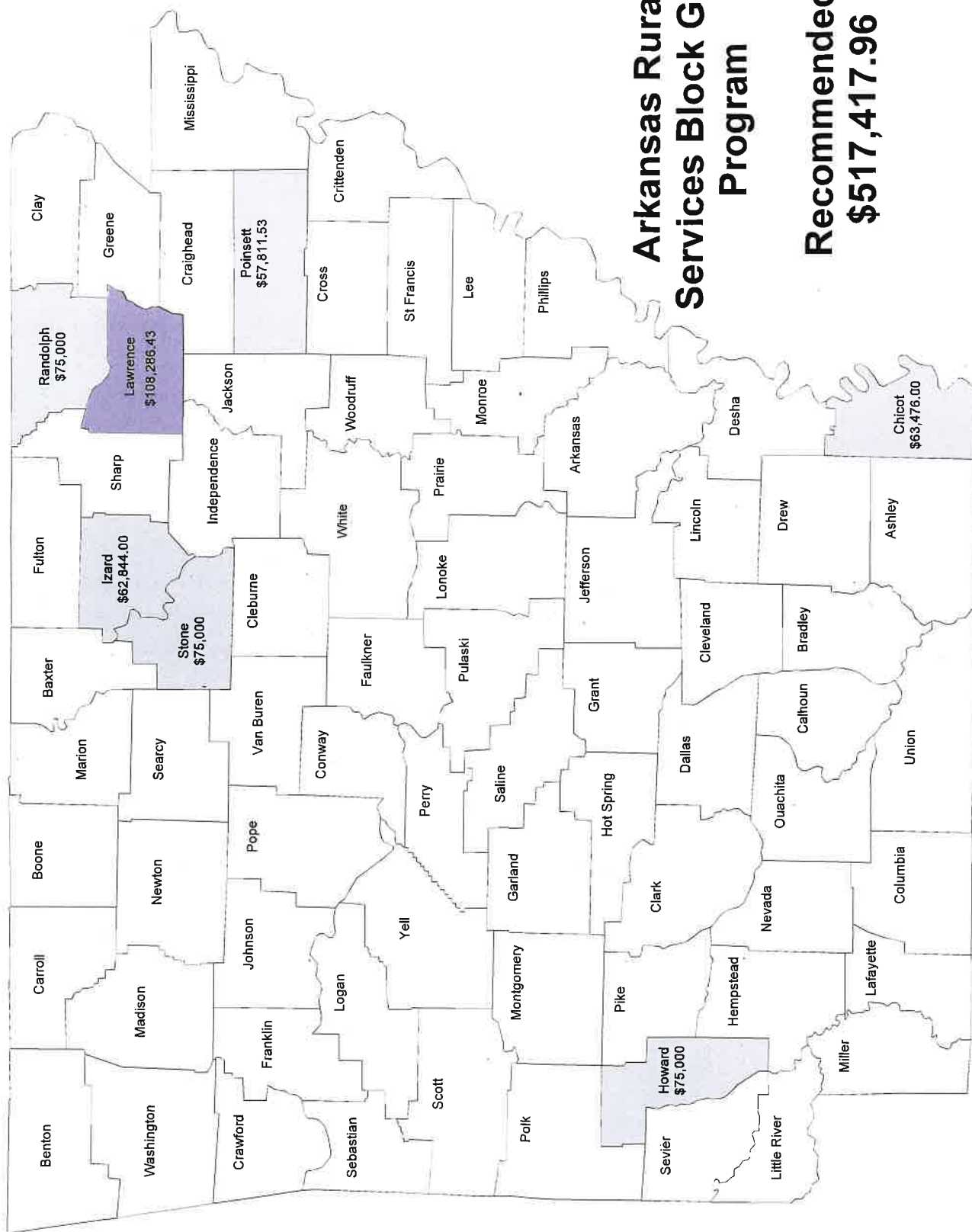
**Recommended
Funding:
\$299,391.46**

Arkansas Rural Services Block Grant

Complete and Eligible Applications

Fiscal Year: 2024

Applicant	County	Requested	Total Cost	Project Narrative	Previous Funding Narrative	Senator	Representative	Recommendation
City Of Dermott	Chicot	\$63,476.00	\$70,528.00	The city of Dermott is requesting \$63,476.00 in funding to purchase 30 portable radios for the Dermott Fire Department.	The city of Dermott received \$75,000.00 in 2017 to purchase and install an emergency warning system for the City of Dermott's fire department.	Ben Gilmore	Howard M. Beatty, Jr.	\$63,476.00
Howard County - Umpire VFD	Howard	\$75,000.00	\$97,495.00	Howard County is requesting \$75,000.00 in funding to purchase a new fire truck for the Umpire Volunteer Fire Department.		Jimmy Hickéy, Jr.	John Maddox	\$75,000.00
Town Of Guion	Izard	\$62,844.00	\$69,149.00	The town of Guion is requesting \$62,844.00 in funding to purchase a cascade system and mini split heat/air system for the Guion Fire Department	The town of Guion received \$43,283.00 in 2020 to purchase 7 sets of turnout gear, helmets, gloves and boots for the Town of Guion's fire department.	Scott Flippo	Steven Walker	\$62,844.00
Town Of Powhatan	Lawrence	\$71,247.15	\$78,746.85	The town of Powhatan is requesting \$71,247.15 to complete renovations on their community center. They would like to replace flooring, rock façade with metal siding and fix the ceiling tiles.	Powhatan was awarded in 2022, for the same project but it was de-obligated as they could not complete the project.	John Payton	Bart Schulz	\$71,247.15
Town Of Ravenden	Lawrence	\$37,039.28	\$41,154.75	The town of Ravenden is requesting \$37,039.28 in funding to purchase extrication equipment for the Fire Department.	Ravenden received \$70,194.99 to purchase a new fire truck.	Blake Johnson	Frances Cavenaugh	\$37,039.28
City Of Harrisburg	Poinsett	\$57,811.53	\$64,234.81	The city of Harrisburg is requesting \$57,811.53 in funding to purchase a cascade system and compressors for their Fire Department	Harrisburg received funds in 2018, but it was de-obligated for the community center as they changed locations.	David Wallace	Dwight Tosh	\$57,811.53
City Of Reyno	Randolph	\$75,000.00	\$82,500.00	The Reyno Fire Department is requesting \$75,000.00 for various pieces of fire equipment.		Blake Johnson	Jeremy Woolridge	\$75,000.00
Stone County - Timbo VFD	Stone	\$75,000.00	\$95,155.00	Stone County is requesting \$75,000.00 in funding to purchase up to 30 full sets of turnout gear for the Timbo Fire Department.		Missy Irvin	Josh Miller	\$75,000.00
Total Requested: \$517,417.46								Total Requested: \$517,417.96



Arkansas Rural Services Block Grant Program

**Recommended:
\$517,417.96**