



**TO:** Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders  
**FROM:** Becca Caldwell, Director – Rural Services  
**RE:** FY 24, Cycle 2 Grant Funding Recommendations for Rural Community Grant (RCGP)

**DATE:** May 17, 2024

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**PURPOSE:**

To present funding recommendations from the Division of 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 program. 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.

**PROPOSED FUNDING:**

- Total amount of funding available for Fiscal Year 2024: **\$600,000.00**
- Funding previously awarded for Cycle 1 of Fiscal Year 2024: **\$299,391.46** (Awarded November 21, 2023)
- Amount requested from recommended applications for Cycle 2 of Fiscal Year 2024: **\$344,728.69**
- Amount of total funding awarded (Cycle 1) and pending funding recommendations (Cycle 2): **\$644,120.15**

**(Overage of \$44,120.15 will come from the Division of Rural Services Operations Budget if approved)**



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

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**These funding recommendations have been approved by the following:**

Arkansas Rural Development Commission: April 4, 2024  
 Clint O’Neal, Executive Director – AEDC: April 8, 2024  
 Hugh McDonald, Secretary of Commerce: April 10, 2024

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Rural Services requests your approval on the funding recommendations for the program listed above. An attachment outlining recommendations for this program is included with this memo.**

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

# Arkansas Rural Community Grant Program Recommended Report

**Fiscal Year:** 2024  
**Cycle:** 2

Applicant	County	Requested	Project Summary	Previous Funded Narrative	Senator	Representative	Recommended
City Of Hamburg	Ashley County	\$13,380.00	The city of Hamburg is requesting \$13,380.00 in funding to purchase and install new bleachers for the city's baseball/softball fields.	The city of Hamburg received \$5,763.56 in 2023 to purchase picnic tables for their town square, they will be ADA compliant.	Gilmore	Beaty	\$0.00
City Of Cotter	Baxter County	\$15,000.00	The city of Cotter is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase and install bollard lights along the walking trail in Big Springs Park.	The city of Cotter received \$15,000.00 in 2022 to add striping and basketball goals to repair old tennis courts, an equipment storage shed and handrails for the parking area at the North Arkansas Youth Center.	Flippo	Fortner	\$0.00
City Of Lakeview	Baxter County	\$1,946.78	The city of Lakeview is requesting \$1,946.78 in funding to purchase a security camera for their city park.		Flippo	Painter	\$1,946.78
Cotter-Gassville RFPD	Baxter County	\$14,433.08	Cotter-Gassville RFPD is requesting \$14,443.08 in funding 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.	Cotter-Gassville RFPD received \$12,811.75 in 2023 to purchase six SCBA units.	Flippo	Fortner	\$14,433.08
Norfolk FD	Baxter County	\$14,406.04	The Norfolk VFD is requesting \$14,406.04 in funding to purchase new sets of turnout gear.		Flippo	Fortner	\$14,406.04
City Of Sulphur Springs	Benton County	\$8,558.60	The city of Sulphur Springs is requesting \$8,588.60 in funding to assist in a restroom remodel for their city park.		Dees	Duke	\$8,558.60
Highfill Volunteer FD	Benton County	\$14,915.92	The Highfill Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$14,915.92 in funding to purchase a new air compressor.	The Highfill VFD received \$15,000.00 in 2023 in funding to purchase SCBA units.	Hester	Underwood	\$14,915.92
Town Of Garfield	Benton County	\$15,000.00	The town of Garfield is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to create a "natural playground" at the Rob and Melani Walton Nature Preserve.	The City of Garfield received \$15,000.00 in 2019 to pave the community walking trail located in Hamilton Park.	Bryant	McKenzie	\$0.00
Prim FD	Cleburne County	\$14,630.00	The Prim Fire Department is requesting \$14,630.00 in funding to purchase new sets of turnout gear.		Payton	Miller	\$14,630.00

City Of McNeil	Columbia County	\$6,160.36	The city of McNeil is requesting \$6,160.36 in funding to purchase and install HVAC units, paint and ceiling tiles for their community center. This is Phase II of their initial community center project.	The city of McNeil received \$15,000.00 in 2023 to repair the roof on the community center, which is currently used as a city run day care.	Crowell	Andrews	\$6,160.36
Lake City FD	Craighead County	\$7,169.97	The Lake City Fire Department is requesting \$7,169.97 in funding to purchase updated SCBA bottles.	The Lake City Fire Department received \$15,000.00 in 2019 to purchase 20 sets of turnout gear.	Wallace	Milligan	\$7,169.97
City Of Mulberry	Crawford County	\$3,847.84	The city of Mulberry is requesting \$3,847.84 in funding to replace an existing gas oven at the city's senior center and replace it with a convection oven as it is safer and more reliable.	City of Mulberry received \$15,000 in 2016 to renovate their community center.	Petty	Puryear	\$3,847.84
Washington VFD	Hempstead County	\$15,000.00	The Washington Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase 4 airpack's, 3 cylinders, batteries and medical facepieces.	Washington VFD received \$4,675.95 in 2015 to equip a fire truck.	Crowell	Watson	\$15,000.00
Cord Volunteer FD	Independence County	\$15,000.00	The Cord VFD is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase a rescue boat, engine and trailer for rescue operations involving flooding when roads are impassible.	The Cord Volunteer Fire Department received \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase a Washer Extractor, Wall Mounted Turnout Rack and Portable Rack for Turnouts.	Payton	Schulz	\$15,000.00
Town Of Franklin	Izard County	\$8,347.80	The town of Franklin is requesting \$8,347.80 in funding to purchase a storm siren. This is part of a larger project utilizing a \$25,000.00 USDA Rural Development Grant to purchase multiple storm sirens. Total project cost is \$33,747.80.		Payton	Walker	\$8,347.80
Lutherville-Holman Community	Johnson County	\$11,162.00	The Lutherville-Holman Community is requesting \$11,162.00 in funding to replace their community center's roof, the false ceiling tiles and add insulation.		Stubblefield	Pilkington	\$11,162.00
City Of Foreman	Little River County	\$15,000.00	Resubmit: The city of Foreman is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to construct a permanent awning and restroom in the pocket "part" between buildings in downtown Foreman for the Farmers Market.	The City of Foreman received \$11,787.50 in 2011 to place a fence around the softball field located in the city park.	Hickey, Jr.	Vaught	\$15,000.00
City Of Winthrop	Little River County	\$15,000.00	The city of Winthrop is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to repair the Winthrop Museum, replacing the roof, replacing the windows, electrical systems, plumbing, painting and many other additional repairs.	The town of Winthrop received \$5,750.00 in 2020 to install new flooring and paint their community center.	Hickey, Jr.	Vaught	\$15,000.00
Grayson Fire Department	Logan County	\$15,000.00	The Grayson Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase new sets of turnout gear.		Rice	Eubanks	\$15,000.00

Huntsville Fire Department	Madison County	\$6,562.50	The Huntsville Fire Department is requesting \$6,562.50 in funding to purchase and install LED lighting for their fire station in the fire station, bays and oversight lighting.		King	Berry	\$6,562.50
City Of Yellville	Marion County	\$6,098.75	The city of Yellville is requesting \$6,098.75 in funding to purchase and install electrical hookups in the city park.	The City of Yellville received \$5,250.00 in 2020 to construct a chain link fence around the city's new pool area.	Flippo	Fortner	\$6,098.75
Oakland Promise Land FPD	Marion County	\$15,000.00	The Oakland Promise Land FPD is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase new Fire Engine Truck to replace their 44 year old truck.	The Oakland Promise Land FPD received \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase a high capacity water pump and water fill truck.	Flippo	Fortner	\$15,000.00
Etowah VFD	Mississippi County	\$3,002.00	The Etowah Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$3,002.00 in funding to purchase four thermal imaging cameras.		Wallace	Milligan	\$3,002.00
City Of Jasper	Newton County	\$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 softball/baseball fields in Bradley Park.	The city of Jasper is received \$15,000.00 in 2023 to purchase sound equipment for their city park stage.	King	Walker	\$0.00
Luton-Pelsor VFD	Newton County	\$9,750.00	The Luton-Pelsor Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$9,750.00 in funding to aid in purchasing a 250 gallon skid unit for the fire department.		King	Walker	\$9,750.00
City Of Bearden	Ouachita County	\$7,707.73	The city of Bearden is requesting \$7,707.73 in funding to purchase and install picnic tables and a pavilion in their city park.	The City of Bearden received \$15,000.00 in 2017 to complete work on an old depot to create a city library and city museum.	Stone	Barker	\$0.00
City Of Glenwood	Pike County	\$15,000.00	The city of Glenwood is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to lay turf/impact material for their playground at Benjamin Lake Industrial Park.		Rice	Gonzales	\$0.00
Pike County	Pike County	\$4,041.52	Pike County is requesting \$4,041.52 in funding to purchase a repeater tower to be utilized by county officials.	The Pike County Library received \$3,424.23 in 2018 to purchase new computers and Resourcemate for the library.	Crowell	Gonzales	\$4,041.52
Tyronza Volunteer FD	Poinsett County	\$3,832.20	The Tyronza VFD is requesting \$3,832.20 in funding to purchase three sets of turnout gear.	The City of Tyronza received \$9,680.00 in 2020 to purchase new rubber boots and nomex hoods for their turnout gear. The current turnouts for the Fire Department are nearing expiration.	Wallace	Hollowell	\$3,832.20
Keo FD	Lonoke County	\$13,244.00	The Keo FD is requesting \$13,244.00 in funding to purchase a new set of Jaws of Life.		Flowers	Lynch	\$13,244.00

City Of Des Arc	Prairie County	\$15,000.00	The city of Des Arc is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to construct a new concession stand/bathroom facility at their ballpark facility to make the facility ADA compliant.	The city of Des Arc received \$7,500.00 in 2022 to repair the roof of the American Legion Building which is owned by the city.	Caldwell	Lynch	\$0.00
Crossroads Volunteer FD	Prairie County	\$14,801.93	The Crossroads VFD is requesting \$14,801.93 in funding to purchase PPE for all of their firefighters.	The Crossroads VFD received \$15,000.00 in 2021 to purchase a 1999 Pierce Saber Custom Pumper truck.	Caldwell	Lynch	\$14,801.93
Hwy 250 VFD	Scott County	\$5,718.31	RESUBMIT: The Hwy 250 Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$5,718.31 in funding to purchase new radios for their fire truck.		Rice	Richmond	\$5,718.31
Waldron Rural FPD	Scott County	\$1,250.00	The Waldron Rural FPD is requesting \$1,250.00 in funding to purchase new radios.	VFD received \$2,000.00 to purchase a slip-on pump unit. No date on award, so it was before 2000.	Rice	Richmond	\$1,250.00
Leslie Volunteer FD	Searcy County	\$13,724.85	The Leslie Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$13,724.85 in funding to purchase 10 new sets of turnout gear.		Irvin	Walker	\$13,724.85
Stone County	Stone County	\$15,000.00	Stone County is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to make improvements to the county owned rodeo's bathroom and concession area.	Newnata-Timbo VFD received \$15,000 in 2016 to add an addition to the Timbo substation.	Irvin	Miller	\$15,000.00
City Of Strong	Union County	\$15,000.00	The city of Strong is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to restore its community center.	The City of Strong received \$14,303.46 in 2019 to purchase gym equipment for their new community center open to the public.		Barker	\$15,000.00
Lincoln FD	Washington County	\$15,000.00	The Lincoln Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to purchase extrication equipment.	The city of Lincoln received \$15,000.00 in 2023 to purchase new sets of turnout gear.	Dees	Grinder	\$15,000.00
Town Of Elm Springs	Washington County	\$11,126.33	The city of Elm Springs is requesting \$11,126.33 in funding to repair the roof on the park pavilion, a new BBQ grill, new basketball goals and replacement mulch in the playground area.		Penzo	Lundstrum	\$0.00.00
Center Hill FD	White County	\$15,000.00	The Center Hill Fire Department is requesting \$15,000.00 in funding to replace their outdated turnout year. They will be purchasing 14 sets.		Dismang	Cooper	\$15,000.00
Pangburn VFD	White County	\$7,124.25	The Pangburn Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$7,200.00 in funding to purchase new fire helmets.	The Pangburn Fire Department received \$9,000.00 in 2023 to purchase new radios for the Fire Department.	Dismang	Hawkins	\$7,124.25

**Total Requested: \$438,698.76**

**Recommended Amount: \$344,728.69**