



**GARDINER CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**



Meeting Date	12/15/2021	Department	Fire/Ambulance
Agenda Item	4.I) Consideration of applying for an AFG (Assistance to Firefighters Grant)		
Est. Cost	\$7,800		

Background Information	<p>Chief Rick Sieberg would like to apply for this year's grant. The application is due 12/17/2021 so there is a very short window to apply.</p>
	<p>The cost to purchase the extrication equipment for Engine 1 will cost approximately \$78,000 and a successful grant will have to guarantee a 10% match. Please see Chief Sieberg's memo attached and if this grant is successful, we will ask Gardiner City Council to accept the grant.</p>

Requested Action	"I move to instruct Chief Sieberg to apply for the AFG (Assistance to Firefighters Grant) to purchase extrication equipment for the City of Gardiner."
City Manager and/or Finance Review	
Council Vote/ Action Taken	
Departmental Follow-Up	

City Clerk Use Only	1 st Reading _____	Advertised _____	EFFECTIVE DATE _____
	2 nd Reading _____	Advertised _____ w/in 15 Days	
	Final to Dept _____	Updated Book _____	Online _____

TO: Mayor Hart and Gardiner City Council
FROM: Chief Rick Sieberg
RE: AFG application

The City of Gardiner Fire Rescue Department is seeking \$78,022 in AFG assistance to facilitate the replacement of our aging extrication equipment on Engine 1, and to place a combination tool on each ambulance. Currently the equipment we have on Engine 1 is approaching 20 years old. Not only is the equipment heavier and more cumbersome than today's battery operated tools, with changes in vehicle construction and uses of different metals, we have encountered situations where our tools simply could not accomplish the task safely or effectively.

The Gardiner Fire Rescue Department provides primary rescue service in an area that spans 250 square miles and covers eight towns and two counties. The department also serves a combined population of over 25,000 and an annual call volume of about 3,000. As the only full time professional fire department within this large area, we are usually the first emergency personnel to arrive on scene. Our ambulances are set up to provide both top-notch ALS care and to fight fires. Each ambulance carries two air packs, spare bottles, hand tools, and turn out gear amongst other emergency supplies. Due to our staffing model these ambulances are not just for EMS. The towns we provide EMS to also use our team to fight fires. Our staffing consists of four firefighters/paramedics that cover four shifts. Covering this large of an area with so few firefighters presents some logistical challenges.

After performing an internal risk assessment, it was very evident that replacing our extrication equipment on Engine 1 with modern battery operated equipment and adding a battery operated combination tool to each ambulance is of high priority. In 2020 the department responded to 3,000 emergency calls. 600 times the fire station was completely empty do to multiple calls. The size of our coverage area and call volume dictates we have most of what we need for the first 15 – 20 minutes of an incident readily available on our ambulances. With the vast majority of today's vehicle extrications requiring simple door pops, having a battery operated combination tool at the ready on each ambulance would save lives and be much safer for staff.

The extrication equipment we have on Engine 1 varies in age from 15 to 20 years old. Being hydraulically operated these tools rely on a gas powered hydraulic pump. Deploying the heavy equipment with such short staff can create challenges. Often times our firefighters will take chances carrying more than they should in an effort to deploy the hydraulic lines, power plant and tools. Once in operation we can only operate two tools at once. After attending many trainings using battery operated equipment it became clear how advantageous they are. One person can easily grab the tool and begin working immediately. Not having to deal with hoses and pumps makes these tools perfectly suited for a small short staffed regional department like ours.

We have conducted extensive research on what is available for battery powered extrication equipment. Our new ambulances were constructed with extra compartment space in anticipation of placing combination tools on them. Fortunately we have a wonderful towing company in our city that allows us to train whenever we desire using their junk cars. If awarded this grant we would be able to go out to RFP immediately. Once delivery occurs extensive in service training would be conducted prior to placing the equipment on the Engine and Ambulances.

Thank you for this opportunity, I firmly believe this request embodies the goals of the AFG. Firefighter safety would be improved as would the safety of the citizens we serve.