

bring interoperability. DHS saw the importance of this and committed a 34 page study to test this equipment and show the importance of its assistance in life safety.

6. Will the item requested benefit other organizations or otherwise be available for use by other organizations?

Yes

If you answered Yes in the question above, please explain:

Our department currently has an automatic and mutual aid agreement with all departments in the Sarasota County area. Venice Fire Department is also part of the Florida Fire Chief's Association mutual aid response. Replacing this equipment with new updated and supported equipment that is P25 compliant will allow our department to continue to maintain interoperability with outside agencies

7. Will this equipment be used for wildland firefighting purposes?

Yes

8. Is your department trained in the proper use of this equipment being requested?

Yes

9. Are you requesting funding for training? (Funding for requested training should be requested in the Equipment Additional Funding section).

No

10. If you are not requesting training funds through this application, will you obtain training for this equipment through other sources?

Yes

Firefighting Equipment - Narrative

* Section # 1 Project Description: In the space provided below include clear and concise details regarding your organization's project's description and budget. This includes providing local statistics to justify the needs of your department and a detailed plan for how your department will implement the proposed project. Further, please describe what you are requesting funding for including budget descriptions of the major budget items, i.e., personnel, equipment, contracts, etc.? *3000 characters

The City of Venice Fire Department is submitting an application to the AFG program in the amount of \$311,075 for the acquisition of hardware and software to increase our interoperability with the Sarasota County Public Safety Communications mobile data system, to replace old obsolete Thermal Imaging Cameras and to update our current mobile and base radio units to comply with DHS' P25 Communication project. In the area of Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety, we feel that these are areas of priority areas and will make a significant impact on our response and responders. The unique aspect of these priorities is that it involves both operations and safety.

Project Description and Budget

Motor Data Terminals

1. Ruggedized Tablet- complete with standard applications software, GPS and vehicle Dock. Quantity 9, \$6100 each, Total-\$54,900
2. Software licenses (which are proprietary to the mobile data system) for connection to the mobile data system, mobile mapping, and Automated Vehicle Location, Quantity 9, \$9600 each, Total-\$86,400
4. Wireless access points, Quantity 3 (one per fire station), \$900 each, Total-\$2700

Total Cost for Mobile Computing Project- \$144,000

The City Of Venice Fire Department has long used the Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) for any and all operations both in fire rescue situations to water rescue and even to assist the Venice Police Department in an ongoing manhunt.

As the city struggles with the ongoing financial difficulties from the recent recession, we are faced with our current aging and unrepairable Thermal Imaging Camera. The life safety advantages of TIC's cannot be overestimated and the uses of the TIC's are limitless.

Thermal Imaging Cameras

1. Thermal Imaging Cameras- Quantity 5, \$9000 each Total- \$45,000

The Venice Fire Dept's P25 migration project will ensure reliability of communications to responders. This will enhance safety and the efforts of responders working incidents. Our current radios are obsolete and no longer supported by the manufacturer. Parts and service are no longer an option thus creating a major safety concern for our emergency responders.

Mobile Stations Replacement and P25 Compliance

1. Base Station Radio, P25 Compliant, external Speakers, micro phone, antenna, programming software and two year warranty with installation- Quantity- 4, \$4750 Each, Total-\$19,000

2.. Mobile Radio with mount, with two year warranty, P25 compliant, site trunking, installation and service- Quantity-11- \$6,425 Each , Total- \$70,675

3. Reflashing of 32 current Astro portable radios to make P25 compliant- Quantity-32- \$75 Each, Total- \$2400

4.- 2 Portable Motorola Mobex units used for mobile command units- Quantity -2- \$15,000 Each, Total- \$30,000
Total request- \$122,075

Firefighters lives- Priceless

* Section # 2 Cost/Benefit: In the space provided below please explain, as clearly as possible, what will be the benefits your department or your community will realize if the project described is funded (i.e. anticipated savings and/or efficiencies)? Is there a high benefit for the cost incurred? Are the costs reasonable? Provide justification for the budget items relating to the cost of the requested items. *3000 characters

The Venice Fire Departments current base and mobile radios are outdated and unsupported by the manufacture. We are on the verge of a severe safety concern. The current mobile radio handsets are routinely taken out of service due to the unavailability of parts and service. All of our current communication equipment cannot be updated or repaired. The move to a new updated, P-25 communication system will give the department the ability of backward compatibility and interoperability with other systems, across system boundaries, and regardless of system infrastructure. In addition, the P25 suite of standards provides an open interface to the radio frequency (RF) subsystem to facilitate interlinking of different vendors' systems, and allow effective, efficient, and reliable intra-agency and inter-agency communication. This will effectively give us a common communication standard that has been given a high priority by DHS.

Digital Vehicular Repeater System (DVRS) is a radio system component that provides repeater capability between our portable radios and the RF base station infrastructure. It extends the portable radio coverage in areas where only Mobile radio coverage is available and portable radio coverage is either intermittent or non existent. It will be installed in our Battalion vehicle and Ladder Truck. The portable radio communications will be extended when the user is outside of the car or inside a shielded area (hospitals, schools, high rises, etc).

This grant will allow the department to add equipment that will expand our mobile data computing capabilities. This will ensure our ability to become more proactive, responsive, and effective. Mobile data computers provide access to mission critical information. This information will enable our Department to coordinate emergency responses and can be shared within the department as well as other mutual aid agencies.

The benefits of being able to decrease response time to emergencies through the mobile mapping cannot be overstated. This new technology will allow for accurate dispatch of the closest unit through the automated vehicle

locator. The reduction in response time directly affects the Department's ability to save lives and protect property.

We expect to enhance our ability to provide greater efficiency in any response. Eliminating the challenges of using paper maps that are stored in a multitude of three ring binders will correlate into more efficient responses.

Thermal imaging cameras create vision in limited or no light situations. Firefighters are able to use these cameras to find victims in an expedient manner. The Venice Fire Department has utilized this technology for over ten years. Our current cameras are in disrepair. The ability of our cameras has diminished. The department has experience two fatalities in recent years that could have been avoided. The purchase of new cameras would benefit those in our community who are in need. What is the price of a life?

* Section # 3 Statement of Effect: How would this award affect the daily operations of your department (i.e., describe how frequently the equipment will be used or what the benefits will provide the personnel in your department)? How would this award affect your department's ability to protect lives and property in your community? *3000 characters

The acquisition of mobile computers and connection to the Sarasota County mobile data system will increase the safety of our personnel and decrease response times through use of the automated vehicle location (AVL). This software will be able to provide a mobile mapping system with routing directions. This should reduce apparatus collisions and provide unit accountability on arrival. Additionally, status and location of units will be transmitted to the dispatcher assuring the closest vehicle response to an incident which will reduce response times.

During mutual aid responses, this mobile computing solution employs broadband air cards which will ensure communicability and accountability with Sarasota County dispatch wherever and whenever our units are requested. Our continuous ability to communicate with dispatch is of particular benefit during mutual aid missions when Venice Fire Department assets may be deployed regionally, statewide, or nationally for hurricanes or wildfires.

Thermal imaging cameras can assist in finding victims through smoke, see in darkness and locate the seat or center of a fire by seeing the flow of hot gases seeping from it. They can even assist in spotting holes in flooring or other structural weaknesses, warning firefighters before their lives are endangered.

What's more, the life-saving benefits of thermal imaging aren't just limited to structure fires. Firefighters find them invaluable in rapid assessment of motor vehicle accidents, wild land fires, search and rescue, and industrial and petrochemical fires.

It has been proven many times over that firefighters equipped with thermal imagers help save more lives and preserve property. Being able to find trapped victims through dense smoke or darkness is the most obvious application for thermal imaging, but the possible applications are endless. A thermal imager can contribute in a variety of unique ways and become an indispensable firefighting tool.

The purchase of new communication equipment, including base radios and mobile radios, will replace our current obsolete and unsupported communication platform and bring us into P-25 compliance. DHS has ranked this as a high priority. Our current mobile radio's are often cannibalized in an effort to maintain a minimum amount of communication capability. The inability to maintain our current mobile radios, puts public safety at risk.

Public Safety Operations require effective command, control, coordination and communication with numerous public safety agencies. In an era where new technology can bring news, entertainment and current events to the farthest reaches of the world, many emergency responders can communicate with each other during major emergencies. This DVRS is a step in the right direction to ensure communications can be maintained to protect our responders. DHS is a supporter of this technology and the safety it provides for our crews.

* Section # 4 In the space provided below include details regarding your organization's request not covered in any other section. *3000 characters

The benefits of being able to decrease response time to emergencies through the mobile mapping cannot be overstated. This will allow for accurate dispatch of the closest unit through the automated vehicle locator. The

reduction of response time and accident rates will aid in our department complying with NFPA 1710 response times and have a tremendous effect on the Department's ability to save lives and protect property.

We expect to enhance the ability to provide a greater efficiency in the response without the challenges of paper mapping stored in a multitude of three ring binders. Currently, Venice is experiencing problems with duplicate street names. This allows us to for quicker street identification.

With the additional preplan and other information resources available to our personnel, we believe the additions to mobile computers will provide for a greater level of accuracy in our tactical decisions, and therefore safer operations.

Mobile computing has been discussed with this Department for some time; we believe the morale of our Department will increase as our personnel find their job safer, and simpler.

The core of a firefighter's job is to efficiently locate and safely extinguish the fire. A thermal imager can be an invaluable tool when firefighters are in attack mode. Firefighters can quickly identify the seat of the fire, monitor how effective the water stream is, and spot structure defects before they become nasty surprises.

It has been proven many times over that firefighters equipped with thermal imagers help save more lives and preserve property. Being able to find trapped victims through dense smoke or darkness is the most obvious application for thermal imaging, but the possible applications are endless. A thermal imager can contribute in a variety of unique ways and become an indispensable firefighting tool. With the purchase of new TIC's our department will brought into compliance with NFPA 1801. Our current TIC's are so outdated that they could not even be retro fitted to this standard.

This grant project would facilitate Venice Fire Department migration on to the Sarasota County P25 project and the Sarasota County site infrastructure; this will provide us seamless interoperability with all departments in Sarasota County. This migration will allow our fire personnel to have access to improved radio coverage that will enhance fire ground operations, better supporting our basic response needs. This will also help our agency meet regional mutual aid requirements that exist between fire agencies inside and outside the jurisdictional boundaries of Sarasota County.

The DVRS will ensure that we are able to communicate with our entry crews at all times. We have several hurricane hardened structures that put our communication capabilities in jepordy. The DVRS will also assist our communication in the result of damage to our towers because of major storms.

Thank you for this oppourtunity.

Budget

Budget Object Class

a. Personnel	\$ 0
b. Fringe Benefits	\$ 0
c. Travel	\$ 0
d. Equipment	\$ 311,075
e. Supplies	\$ 0
f. Contractual	\$ 0
g. Construction	\$ 0