

MISSISSIPPI INSURANCE DEPARTMENT
Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance Program
(505-00)



5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

FOR THE FISCAL YEARS 2019-2023

RURAL FIRE TRUCK ACQUISITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

1. Comprehensive Mission Statement

The Mississippi Legislature created Fire Services Development under the Mississippi Insurance Department (MID) in 1988 to carry out two principal functions:

- Provide accountability for approximately \$16 million in state fire protection funds distributed annually to Mississippi's counties and municipalities. Miss. Code Ann. § 83-1-37 and 83-1-39.
- Provide guidance to the state's fire service to assist in the enhancement of and accelerate the growth of fire protection capabilities throughout the State, particularly in rural areas. Miss. Code Ann. § 17-23-1.

The purpose of this division was to establish a program to encourage and assist in the establishment, development, and the operation of fire protection districts and associations in rural areas which had little or no fire protection available. Since 1995, Fire Services Development has administered the Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance Program (RFTAAP), which provides matching fund grants up to \$70,000 for fire truck purchases in rural areas.

2. Agency Philosophy

The Mississippi Insurance Department (MID) regulates the state's insurance industry and performs the duties of the State Fire Marshal's Office. MID has a commitment to service in the public interest of areas outside the city limits and to small municipalities. Recognizing the need for fire protection throughout the rural areas of the State of Mississippi, the program provides counties with grants of \$50,000 per fire truck for the first six trucks and \$70,000 each for next four vehicles. Counties also can apply for trucks on behalf of cities with which they have a contract to provide fire protection within a five-mile area of the municipal limits.

3. Relevant Statewide Goals and Benchmarks

The Department will assess the impact of state legislation over the next 5 fiscal years with a goal of adopting the appropriate strategies to maximize the effective regulation of the insurance industry in the State of Mississippi. Section 17-23-1, Mississippi Code 1972, annotated, authorized the Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance Program to assist in the purchasing of new fire trucks to provide fire protection in rural areas. The program has served to encourage boards of supervisors to get involved in fire protection and it has gotten more people involved in their local fire departments. In return, MID has been able to keep insurance rates low and stable in rural areas.

Statewide Goal #1: To save loss of lives and property in rural areas due to fire.

Relevant Benchmarks #1

- Provide fire protection in rural communities where it didn't exist
- Protect the lives and property of the public

Statewide Goal #2: To provide the best equipment to over 13,000-plus volunteer firefighters in the rural areas of the state.

Relevant Benchmarks #2

- Provide assistance to purchase fire trucks for the volunteer fire departments in rural areas
- Eliminate antiquated and dangerous equipment and replace with current and relevant equipment
- Protect the lives and safety of the volunteer firefighters

4. Overview of the Agency 5-year Strategic Plan

The agency will continue to expand in many areas over the next five years. Public demand is an external factor which will continue to impact our agency. The Mississippi Insurance Department's *FY 2018-2022 Strategic Plan* is the first step of the State's Strategic Planning and Budgeting System and serves as the foundation for appropriations request and budget structure. The regulatory philosophy of the department recognizes that the department exists to serve the citizens of the state. The Mississippi Insurance Department (MID) believes that it has a responsibility to the insurance industry and the people working in the insurance industry that serve Mississippi.

5. Agency's External / Internal Assessment

INTERNAL

MID has developed and maintained an excellent reputation with its customers and stakeholders. The insurance industry recognizes and appreciates the quality of services that MID delivers, and the expertise that MID brings to the table. MID has experienced, knowledgeable employees who deliver excellent service to agency customers and stakeholders.

EXTERNAL

A variety of current and changing external forces influence MID's ability to fulfill our mission and satisfy our customers' and stakeholders' needs and expectations. One of the main external challenges that we've encountered with this program is outdated equipment.

6. Agency Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Measures by Program

Mississippi Insurance Department strives to meet all the operational efficiency goals of providing services within its budget while meeting all regulatory requirements set by the state. The agency has various broad goals with supporting objectives and strategies that help facilitate the achievement of the agency's mission. This program provides assistance in purchasing fire trucks to smaller municipalities and counties providing rural fire protection. Fire trucks are the one fire protection item in which these localities might not be able to purchase on their own.

RFTAAP

The Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance Program (RFTAAP) was created by House Bill 255 in 1995. . The program has placed hundreds of fire trucks into rural Mississippi communities. It is an extremely popular program that has not only saved lives and property but also provided the best equipment to over 13,000 volunteer firefighters in the state. The rural fire truck program provides counties with grants of \$50,000 per fire truck for the first six trucks and \$70,000 each for next four vehicles. Counties also can apply for trucks on behalf of cities with which they have a contract to provide fire protection within a five-mile area of the municipal limits. This program has created more public awareness of rural fire protection.

SRFTAAP

During the Third Extraordinary Session of 2004, the Mississippi Legislature passed a new legislation creating the Supplemental Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance Program (SRFTAAP) which allowed for an additional match of \$70,000 per county. The purpose of this new program was to expedite the purchase of a new apparatus in counties that were awaiting a new Round to be designated by the Legislature in the regular RFTAAP grant program (Section 17-23-1 of the MS Code of 1972 as Amended).

The SRFTAAP also includes a provision for a county to receive up to a 10% match of funds from this program. These funds would be used to pay for the county's match requirement for any other grants they may obtain from any other source other than RFTAAP to acquire a fire apparatus.

6.1 GOALS:**Goal A: Reduce the number of cases of loss of life and property due to fire**

6.1 Objective A.1: Protect the public from loss of life and property due to fire

Outcome 1: Reduce the number of lives lost due to fire

Outcome 2: Reduce the amount of property damage caused by fires

6.1 Strategy A.1: Provide fire protection in rural communities where it didn't exist

Output: Number of fire trucks reimbursed

Efficiency: Average cost per fire truck