

To all Nebraska Volunteer Fire Departments,

The State of Nebraska Office of the CIO is writing to provide you with an update regarding the ongoing Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) Radio Grant.

New Equipment Available!

Thanks to the efforts of the Nebraska State Legislature, the State Radio System has secured \$2 million in funding for another round of VFD radio equipment delivery. Because of this, state-recognized volunteer fire departments can once again apply to receive SRS-capable radio equipment.

The same selection process used in the prior grant cycle will be used for this one. All VFDs are eligible to apply, including those that have already received equipment. Priority selection will be given to VFDs who were not previously awarded equipment in 2024.

To apply, please visit <https://vfdradiogrant.nebraska.gov/> and fill out the application. Applications are due by August 16th. Applications received after the 16th will not be accepted. Awardees will be notified by September 2nd, 2024.

Incorrect Batteries for Motorola Equipment

Due to a supply error, some VFDs that requested Motorola equipment may have received the incorrect batteries for their radios.

Incorrect batteries feature a white dot on the bottom label and are listed as Part Number PMNN4547A. When put in the radio, the equipment will display “Wrong Battery.” Images of the faulty batteries are displayed below.



If your department received an incorrect battery, please contact Kelsey Hetrick at kelsey.c.hetrick@nebraska.gov to request a proper battery.

Motorola Microphone Technical Issues

Motorola has issued a recall involving the Motorola XVE500 Remote Speaker Microphones that were provided with portable radios as part of the grant. These microphones may exhibit intermittent audio disconnection during transmissions, and the affected device may transmit incomplete audio.



The notification about this recall was provided in Motorola Technical Notification MTN-0098-24, and affects the following model numbers:

- PMMN4132A
- PMMN4132ABLK
- PMMN4137A
- PMMN4137ABLK

The State Radio System is currently working with Motorola to develop a timeline to replace the affected equipment. We appreciate your patience as we work to resolve this issue.

Training Sessions Available!

Here is the current list of all upcoming training sessions:

Date	Time	Location	Status	Equipment Type
7/30/24	6:30 – 8:30 p.m. MDT (7:30 – 9:30 CDT)	342 Central Ave Grant, NE 69140	Closed	Motorola and Kenwood
7/31/24	6:30 – 8:30 p.m. CDT	Fire Training Grounds 4300 Piper Ave Kearney, NE 68847	Closed	Motorola and Kenwood
8/7/24	6:30 – 8:30 p.m. CDT	224 S Hall St Valentine, NE 69201	Open*	Motorola and Kenwood
9/18/24	6:30 – 8:30 p.m. CDT	401 E Fremont St O'Neill, NE 68763	Open	Motorola and Kenwood

**Equipment will be provided to invited VFDs only. Other VFDs may attend the training session, but equipment will not be provided at this session.*

VFDs that requested equipment installations must contact their assigned vendor after receiving the equipment to schedule an installation time. You do not need to bring your VFD's vehicle for training but will need to take it to the vendor for installation.

Further training sessions to be announced.

Additional dates and locations, including August and September training sessions, will be posted in future updates.

New Website Content Available!

Stay up to date with the latest developments by regularly checking the SRS [website](#) for any changes ([link](#); QR code available below).



New videos on the kit setup and teardown procedures are now available.

Videos, instructions, and other information for utilizing your equipment are also featured on the website.

Obtaining a Desk Charger

VFDs that wish to purchase a different desk charger should speak with their radio vendor contacts. Additional charger purchases are not covered by the grant. Desk chargers cost approximately \$150 each.

Below are the part numbers for the desk chargers:

- **Motorola:** NNTN8860B
- **Kenwood:** KSC-52BK

Vehicle Charger Installation

94 departments have requested vehicle chargers and should only be working with their listed vendor to have the charger installed.

Purchase orders have been sent to the assigned vendors. Covered costs, minus any travel expenses, will be reimbursed at vendors with purchase orders.

Immediately after receiving the radio equipment, please work with the listed vendor to schedule the vehicle charger installation in the designated vehicle.

System Users Group (SUG) Meetings

The Systems Users Group meets bi-monthly at the NPPD facility in York, Nebraska, and is streamed online using Microsoft Teams. The meetings are open to all users of the Statewide Radio System and anyone else with interest in the operations of the system.

These meetings provide an opportunity for users to discuss system operations, maintenance, and other pertinent topics. It is recommended that users of the SRS attend the meetings to network and address questions and concerns. In addition, vendors may be present to talk and perform presentations on their equipment.

The SUG Users List is where all communications are disseminated for system operation. Contact Kelsey Hetrick to be added to the list and receive information about dates and times.

Jack Lewis Safety Fund Grant Opportunity

The Jack Lewis Safety Fund provides up to \$50,000 per year in grants for public safety equipment. VFDs may be eligible to apply to the grant for additional funding.

The Jack Lewis Safety Fund is a philanthropic fund established in 2018 in honor Jack K. Lewis, M.D. Lewis was a highly accomplished individual in both his professional and volunteer careers. He worked closely with emergency services, and his memorial grant hopes to continue that work.

The grant supports police, fire, or EMT departments in second-class Nebraska and Iowa Communities (second-class communities are defined as towns, villages, or other municipalities with five thousand or fewer residents).

If you would like to apply to the grant, please visit the [Jack Lewis Safety Fund page at the Omaha Community Foundation Website](#) (a QR code is available below). There, you can download the application from the section "Application Details."



Grants can be requested for equipment, personal protection gear, or training purposes. The maximum grant amount considered is \$50,000, and the average grant distributed is approximately \$10,000. Priority is given to requests with committed dollars raised in the local community.

Thank You!

Thank you for your patience as we continue to receive, prepare, and distribute equipment. We look forward to providing your requested SRS-capable radios.

Regards,

Kelsey C. Hetrick - Systems Coordinator
kelsey.c.hetrick@nebraska.gov

For additional details and updates please visit <https://cio.nebraska.gov/network-serv/publicsafety/index.html> and locate the “State of Nebraska Volunteer Fire Departments – Radio Grant Information” button on the page.