

County of Lancaster Request for ARPA Funding

Organization **Refton Fire Company** Date 08-25-22 Submitted By **Rob Williams, Fire Chief**
 Authorized Signature: *Rob Williams* Email Address: [REDACTED]
 Phone: [REDACTED]

Please attach any supporting documentation for consideration. Submission should be in PDF Format.

<p>Project/Item Description</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Volunteer Fire Company Emergency Generator System Upgrade Emergency Services</p> <p>Refton Fire Company is located in Strasburg Township and serves the residents and visitors of Strasburg Township as well as Providence Township. The Fire Company boasts an active membership of 40 operational members and 20 support members that answer a call volume of 175-200 requests per year. The current Fire Station was built in the 1950's to support the organization that was founded in 1921 and over the last 70+ years the facility has underwent several additions in order to continue to support the growing needs of the community. The current facility is equipped with a small, inadequate and outdated generator that is 50+ years old. The generator provides minimal power when needed and certainly is unable to support all the necessary electrical needs of the emergency service organization today.</p> <p>Through this grant request and subsequent proposal, Refton Fire Company will complete a major electrical upgrade at the firehouse location that will culminate with the installation of a new state-of-the-art generator system. This new system will be capable of providing power to the entire facility and encompass all necessary services to allow the continuation of firefighting activities and associated functions in the event of a power failure. This will also allow the location to be utilized by the residents of Strasburg Township as a primary evacuation point in the event of a major incident within the Township.</p> <p>The total projected cost of this project is \$190,000.00. A financial package/plan is outlined within this document to support the ARPA grant funding request of \$95,000.00.</p> <p>The above project will also serve to sustain the Fire Company activities that include numerous fund raiser events such as an Annual Mud Sale, Community Dinners and Chicken Corn Soup sales as well as Community Breakfast events. This project will ensure the safety of the visiting public should there be an emergency during an event.</p>
<p>Clearly state the amount being requested. What is the total cost? How was the cost derived?</p>	<p>Refton Fire Company clearly understands the value of maximizing the available dollars for the citizens of Lancaster County. Therefore, our volunteer leadership team spent considerable time and effort to insure that we obtained competitive quotations/proposals for the proposed work under this grant request. The enclosed cost estimate/proposal will outline those details and you will see that the vendor is Lancaster County based. We felt it was important to maximize the dollars available through benefiting the local economy with providing work to a local business partner right here in Lancaster County. Thus, this project will benefit our organization, our citizens and community as well as the local economy – a win for all stakeholders.</p> <p>The requested project and financial budget will be as follows:</p> <p>Refton Fire Company proposes to partner with the County of Lancaster on this grant request with 50% of the funds being committed by the Volunteer Fire Company (\$95,000.00) and the remaining \$95,000.00 to be allotted from the County of Lancaster ARPA funding.</p> <p>While this project has been in the planning stages, the overall finances for the project have been significantly affected by the COVID loses as it relates to fundraising activities. During</p>

the height of COVID, the volunteers had to cancel many events that included an Annual Mud Sale, 2 dinners and a Chicken Corn Soup Sale. Based on prior year's attendance and profit records, the organization suffered a loss in the range of \$65,000.00-\$75,000.00 through the cancellation of these events directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to the above stated losses, Refton Fire Company currently can commit \$20,000.00 in immediately available funds to offset the \$95,000.00 matching funds that we would need to have available. The Fire Company leadership is committed to securing a loan for the balance of our portion of the required funds or \$75,000.00, however we would also be open to discussion and consideration with the County of Lancaster to any additional funding consideration above and beyond the \$95,000.00 requested for this project application.

In the near future, the 100% Volunteer Fire Company will also have a need to complete a refurbishment of the current Tanker Vehicle (emergency equipment) at a projected cost of \$300,000.00. So, while this project has also been in the financial planning for a period of time, we do have other significant financial obligations in the near future.

Total Project Costs as noted above: \$190,000.00

Refton Fire Company: \$20,000.00 Cash Commitment / \$75,000.00 Borrowed Funds

TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED FOR THIS ARPA GRANT APPLICATION: \$95,000.00

Which County ARPA Community-wide Benefit(s) does the project meet?	Public Safety (Law Enforcement, EMS, EMA, Fire)
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Briefly explain how the project meets the County's guidelines.	As a Volunteer Fire Company in Lancaster County we're here to protect the lives and property of our local citizenry, neighboring communities and Lancaster County in total 24/7/365. It is our belief that this clearly showcases a community-wide as well as county-wide benefit under the guidelines for ARPA funding requests. Our request would be in line with category #3 – Public Safety (Law Enforcement, EMS, EMA, Fire). As a volunteer public safety agency, we rely heavily on donations and fundraising activities to support the organization. During the many months of COVID, our organization was unable to raise the level of income that we once did or pre COVID. We saw a decrease in revenue through fundraising efforts as well as a decrease in our hall rental income that supports the overall Fire Department operations. We believe this loss of funds that is directly correlated to COVID is exactly what the CARES Act funds were made available for. Therefore, we believe this request is in line with Lancaster Counties desire to provide ARPA funding for community projects and community organizations such as Refton Fire Company.
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Why should this project be a priority and how will it help the County? Also, if this application is for more than one project, please identify each one, provide information and rank them in order of your priority.	The facility upgrades that are requested in this application will have an immediate and on-going positive effect on the residents of Strasburg Township, surrounding communities and Lancaster County in its entirety. A portion of the Refton Fire Company facility (included in this project) could be utilized by Strasburg Township residents as an evacuation location, therefore there will be a direct benefit derived by the citizens through the award of these funds to our organization. This project will also serve to support our community infrastructure during an emergency.
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Will this project require ongoing expense (maintenance, updates) or frequent replacement? Are expenses already being incurred, if so, can they be reduced through this project?	The requested project will require on-going funds for maintenance and upkeep, however these funds are already budgeted and planned on an annual basis by Refton Fire Company and supported by Strasburg Township. However, through this project and the ability to ultimately upgrade the generator within the facility, we will be able to realize a cost savings through an energy efficient generator system and upgraded equipment and technology.
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Project Timeline – start to finish, and when funding will be needed.	Refton Fire Company has completed the planning phase for this project as the generator upgrade project was in the planning discussion prior to COVID. However, due to COVID and the loss of funding from fundraising activities the project was delayed, thus the request for ARPA funding to move the project forward. As shown in this submission, we've already
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	<p>obtained the quotation/proposal for the requested work. Therefore, we're ready to move forward with the project immediately upon securing the necessary funding. The fire company leadership fully understands the deadlines for the ARPA funds and will be able to contract and complete all the proposed work prior to the 12/31/2024 deadline. If the funds are awarded prior to the close of 2022, it is our expectation that we will contract and complete all work in 2023.</p>
<p>Are other organizations part of this project? If yes, please list them and their role, including funding. If not, explain why.</p>	<p>As a 100% volunteer fire company we rely heavily on partnerships and community support. As such, we work collectively with local entities such as Strasburg Township. We consider the Township as a key partner in this proposed project and grant request as evidenced in the attached letter of support. The Township will benefit through this project by being able to insure the residents of the Township a timely emergency response through adequate facilities and increased emergency systems such as a generator. The Township relies on our facility as a primary evacuation point for their residents, thus a well-equipped and modernized facility at the fire company will be of great value to the overall Township.</p>
<p>ARPA Committee Comments</p>	
<p>ARPA Committee Recommendation</p>	
<p>Funding Amount Recommended (if recommended for approval)</p>	<p>\$</p>