

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

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ASST. CHIEF MAX STREETER

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Project Description:

The Columbia Township Fire Department proposed project is to greatly increase the amount of water that we can deliver to emergency scenes in our rural area due to lack of Fire Hydrants and a Tanker/Tender. Our project will provide a much-needed water supply to the emergency scene while utilizing less personnel and equipment. We have found through our research that a fire service vacuum tanker/tender is the most efficient, effective and cost saving method to load and unload water. The vacuum tanker/tender system helps eliminate the need for a pumper, and manpower at a fill site and causes us not to rely on mutual aid for water sources. There are seventeen small inland lakes within our response area, and several of these lakes have dry hydrants. This Vacuum Tanker/Tender would not only help with the structure fires within our response area but would greatly increase the water supply to our mutual and automatic aid departments.

Plan for use Funds:

The grant funding will be used to purchase a new, NFPA compliant, 3000-gallon fire service tanker/tender with the necessary equipment to place it into service as soon as it is delivered, and all of the Firefighters have been properly trained on this apparatus.

Program Benefits:

This project will benefit both the residents in our response area, and those of our Mutual and Automatic Aid areas, for several reasons: First, since this Tanker/Tender will enhance our fire ground water delivery rate, it also increases our Fire Departments suppression capability, which will reduce property loss from fires. Second, is the direct dollar savings in insurance premiums, which should help improve our local economy. Third, the increased water delivery rate will have a positive life safety impact on both our residents and firefighters during a structure fire. Fourth, it will increase the available manpower and equipment at the fire scene, because of not having to have a pumper pumping from a water supply to fill tankers/tenders. Fifth, The Tanker/Tender will also be used to provide water for decontamination services at hazard materials incidents by providing an adequate supply of water to decontaminate victims, responders, and equipment.

Why the Project Cannot be Funded Locally:

Our rural community does not have the tax base to generate funding for the total cost of this project, because the tax base is predominately farming, with no industry, however through local government funding we can secure the matching funds. Funding this project through a loan or similar program at this time is not possible because of a current financial obligation for the construction of a Fire Station to house our equipment.

Additional Relevant Information:

The Columbia Township Fire Department has a very strict drivers training S.O.P./S.O.G. requirements which states in part, Every Columbia Township Firefighter has to receive eight classroom hours of drivers training using VFIS, and/or IFSTA Drivers training materials before driving any CTFD vehicles and/or responding with lights and sirens. Each year all Columbia Township Firefighters have to receive a four-hour refresher drivers training course and class.

The Columbia Township Fire Department has applied for Assistance to the Firefighters Grants for several years. Our situation is now more desperate than ever and the need for a Tanker/Tender to serve our response area and Mutual and Automatic aid areas is critical. The Columbia Township Fire Department currently has a fleet of two Pumpers, one being a Pumper/Tanker, the Pumper/Tanker is our primary attack unit, the second Pumper is mostly used as a draft unit from several of the small inland lakes and streams within the Township, this leaves this Fire Department without a tanker/tender to haul the much needed water to the fire scene.

Columbia Township is a rural community with seventeen small inland lakes, and a rail line runs through the township from the southern border through the northern border, this rail line is very busy with both freight trains and Amtrak Trains. The primary industry is blueberry farming, a majority of the homes within Columbia Township are on narrow long Fire Lanes surrounding the several inland lakes.

Because most of the Columbia Township Firefighters work out of the area during the day times hours, as well as those in the surrounding communities, having this type of Tanker/Tender (vacuum Tanker/Tender) brings the much-needed personnel to the fire scene, increasing overall firefighter safety.

Chief Farley Gruber
Columbia Township
Fire Department