


County of Lancaster  
Request for ARPA Funding

Organization: East Petersburg Fire Company  
Submitted By: Mark F. Cohen, Deputy Fire Chief  
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Date: 08/25/2022

Authorized Signature: 

Phone #: [REDACTED]

**Project/Item Description** The East Petersburg Volunteer Fire Company is requesting consideration for County of Lancaster ARPA Funding to replace vital aging equipment including the Company's Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and Hydraulic/Pneumatic Rescue Tools.

**Clearly state the amount being requested. What is the total cost? How was the derived?** The East Petersburg Fire Company (EPFC) has obtained sales quotes to replace both the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and the Hydraulic/Pneumatic Rescue Tools. The cost to replace all of the cost Company's aging SCBA is \$278,900.00. The cost to replace the out of date Hydraulic/Pneumatic Rescue Tools is \$145,845.83. The total cost of this project is \$424,745.83. The EPFC will be able to contribute 5% or 21,237.30. The amount requested from the County of Lancaster ARPA funds is \$403,508.53.

**Which County ARPA Community-wide Benefit(s) does the project meet?** The request for grant funding under the County of Lancaster ARPA Funding by the East Petersburg Fire Company meets benefit number 3, Public Safety (Law Enforcement, EMS, EMA, Fire).

**Briefly explain how the project meets the County's guidelines** The project proposed by the EPFC meets all the County guidelines for ARPA Funding.

- A. The East Petersburg Fire Company provides public safety service by responding to Fire and EMS calls in Lancaster County.
- B. The project proposed by the EPFC is for one time funding. No additional funds will be needed following the acquisition of the requested equipment.
- C. The project will not require any additional ongoing operational funding. The EPFC budgets annually for maintenance and inspections of the equipment which would be replaced by the funding of this project. These expenses would be considered normal and routine and would not require additional funding from ARPA or the County.
- D. The project proposed by the EPFC will be completed by 12/31/2024.
- E. The EPFC has been planning for these upcoming projects. They have been unable to secure funding for the complete project however. The EPFC will be able to fund 5% of the total cost of the project as agency fund contribution.

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 project, provide information and rank them in order of your priority.

The East Petersburg Fire Company was established in 1910 and to this day continues to operate as an all-volunteer fire department consisting of 45 active firefighters and many support members. The Company protects a first due area of 12 square miles in the Borough of East Petersburg and surrounding portions of East Hempfield and Penn one, Townships all located in Lancaster County. The Company responds to mutual aid to any municipality upon request, however routinely provides mutual aid fire and rescue services to East Hempfield, Penn, Manheim, West Hempfield and Lancaster Townships as well as Manheim and Lititz Boroughs. This large geographic region as well as thousands of residents, workers and visitors receive benefit from the fire and rescue services provided by the EPFC.

The East Petersburg Fire Company responds to structure and vehicular fire incidents as well as hazardous materials incidents. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus are the vital pieces of equipment used by every firefighter on every fire incident. When the situation requires the firefighter to enter an immediate danger to life and health (IDLH) environment, the firefighter's life depends on having a reliable supply of clean air to breathe. The current SCBA worn by firefighters at the EPFC was purchased in 2010 and is out of date by two revisions to the National Fire Protection (NFPA) code. The SCBA cylinders, by NFPA rule, must be replaced after 15 years of service. In this case, it makes no sense for the EPFC to spend funds on replacing the cylinders that only will work with the out of date breathing apparatus. The Company is already experiencing difficulty finding replacement parts for the aged model of breathing apparatus currently in service. For these reasons, it is necessary to replace the EPFC's Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. Should funding be available for only a portion of the EPFC's project, the highest priority for funding would be the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus replacement.

The heavily traveled PA Route 283, a divided highway of which the EPFC provides 4 miles of primary fire and rescue protection to both eastbound and westbound traffic traverses through our district. This roadway is a primary link to the State Capital in Harrisburg from areas of central Pennsylvania through to the Ports of Philadelphia and Wilmington, Delaware. This roadway was constructed to American Association of State Highway and Transportation standards as an Interstate Highway, which sets minimum design speeds. Although not officially designated as an Interstate Highway, much of this roadway has a set speed limit of 65 miles per hour, increasing the risk for vehicular accidents and hazardous material incidents. This is proven by nearly 100 vehicular and rescue related incidents we respond to annually. In the summer months, a travel study has indicated that more than 173,000 automobiles travel through our district on a daily basis. In order to adequately protect the motoring public, the EPFC needs to have appropriate rescue tools in the event of a vehicle accident on these

roadways. The current set of rescue tools dates back to 2006. The materials used in vehicle construction have changed in the past 16 years, such to the point that the EPFC's current cache of rescue tools will not function adequately to affect a rescue in some instances. It is therefore necessary to replace the out of date hydraulic/pneumatic rescue tools.

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 SCBA are required by NFPA 1500 and NFPA 1852 to be annually inspected. This is a current and ongoing expense already budgeted by the EPFC. The area where costs will be reduced by replacing current SCBA will be by reducing repair costs and by not needing to replace SCBA cylinders. The current cylinders are almost at their end of life and will need to be replaced at an approximate cost of just under \$50,000. These cylinders are only compatible with the current, aging SCBA. The current SCBA will not remain serviceable for the 15-year cylinder lifespan, and thus new cylinders will need to be purchased in several years when the SCBA are replaced. The current SCBA are more frequently requiring service and replacement parts to remain in service, parts which are increasingly more difficult to find.

The rescue tools are maintained annually by the manufacturer. These too are aging and require parts that are increasingly more difficult to find. The EPFC has been informed by the manufacturer that there are some parts that are no longer available. To date, the EPFC has not had failure of any of these obsolete components. Were that to occur, the affected tool would immediately be required to be placed out of service and would amount to little more in terms of value to the Company than that of a paper weight. Cost savings here would be in terms of additional maintenance and repair on aging equipment.

Project Timeline – start to finish, and when funding will be needed.

Planning for this project has already begun within the EPFC. Manufacturers indicate that lead times from order to delivery are anywhere from 6 to 9 months. The EPFC would be ready to place orders following notification of a successful grant application as early as first quarter of 2023, which would place equipment delivery by the end of 2023 or early 2024. Funding would be needed upon delivery of the equipment. The project would be able to be completed ahead of the December 31, 2024 grant deadline.

Are other organizations part of this project? If yes, please list them and their role, including funding. If not, explain why.

The equipment would be solely purchased and maintained by the EPFC. Surrounding organizations would benefit from the equipment as the EPFC provides mutual aid support to many communities in Lancaster County as described above. The citizenry of all the communities to which the EPFC is called to respond would reap the benefits of the new equipment by ensuring a safer response and a more efficient mitigation of the incident by the members of the EPFC.

