

limited to minor interior alterations costing less than \$10,000).

(c) *Firefighting equipment acquisition:* USFA may make grants for the purpose of acquiring additional firefighting equipment, including equipment needed directly for fire suppression or to enhance the safety or effectiveness of firefighting or rescue activities.

Eligible expenses include those expenses necessary to acquire additional firefighting equipment, including equipment for individual communications and monitoring equipment. Compressor systems, cascade systems, or similar SCBA refill systems are eligible expenditures in this area. Small boats (under 13 feet in length), jet-skis, and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) may be considered firefighting or rescue equipment if properly justified in the narrative section of the application.

Renovations to an existing facility necessary to accommodate new firefighting equipment are allowable if the renovations are minor and comply with the definition in the final rule and published in the **Federal Register** (*i.e.*, limited to minor interior alterations costing less than \$10,000).

Thermal imaging cameras are eligible, but the number of cameras that can be applied for and/or purchased with grant funds will be limited based on the population served by the department applying for assistance. Departments that serve communities of less than 20,000 can purchase one thermal imaging camera with grant funds if awarded a grant; departments serving communities between 20,000 and 50,000 can purchase two cameras with grant funds if awarded a grant; and departments serving communities of over 50,000 can purchase three cameras with grant funds if awarded a grant.

Activities that are not eligible in this area include construction of facilities such as buildings, towers, etc. Vehicles, as defined in the final rule and published in the **Federal Register**, are not eligible under this activity. Signage and outdoor warning sirens or systems are also not eligible. Personal protective equipment, including clothing for structural and/or wildland fire suppression such as "Turnout Gear" or "Bunker Gear" (including boots, pants, coats, gloves, hoods, goggles, vests, helmets, coveralls, and fire shelters), self-contained breathing apparatus, spare cylinders, and personal alert safety systems, is not eligible under this activity, but is eligible under the Personal Protective Equipment Acquisition activity.

Integrated communications systems (or parts thereof), such as computer-

aided dispatch, base stations, repeaters, etc., are eligible under this activity. Portable radios and/or mobile communications equipment (including mobile repeaters) are also eligible. Personal accountability systems are eligible as well. The cost of shipping equipment purchased under this program is also an eligible expense.

The purchase of any equipment under this program must have the intent and/or goal of satisfying local problems with interoperable systems. Any applicant seeking funding for communications systems and/or equipment must provide details regarding their local plan to enable interoperability for their jurisdiction in the narrative section of their application.

(d) *Personal protective equipment acquisition:* USFA may make grants for the purpose of acquiring personal protective equipment required for active firefighting personnel by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and other personal protective equipment for firefighting personnel.

Eligible personal protective equipment includes clothing for structural and wildland fire suppression such as "Turnout Gear" or "Bunker Gear" (including boots, pants, coats, gloves, hoods, goggles, vests, helmets, coveralls, and fire shelters), self-contained breathing apparatus, spare cylinders, and personal alert safety systems. Protective clothing for response to hazardous materials incidents and other specialized incidents are also eligible under this activity.

The purchase of three-quarter length rubber boots is an ineligible expenditure under this activity since it precludes the effective use of the eligible PPE cited above. Uniforms (formal/parade or station/duty) or uniform items (hats, badges, etc.) are also not eligible expenditures under this activity. Personal communications equipment such as radios and pagers are not eligible under this activity, but eligible under firefighting equipment acquisition activity.

The purchase of any equipment under this program must have the intent and/or goal of satisfying local problems with interoperable systems. Any applicant seeking funding for communications systems and/or equipment must provide details regarding their local plan to enable interoperability for their jurisdiction in the narrative section of their application.

(e) *Modifications to fire stations and facilities activities:* Eligible measures under this activity are limited but focused on promoting fire and life safety

in fire stations and facilities. We believe that each of the eligible measures, if incorporated, would make any facility safer for firefighters. Measures that are eligible for funding are the installation of sprinkler systems, installation of vehicle exhaust extraction systems, the installation of smoke and/or fire alarm notification systems, and minor renovations to facilities that are necessary in order to accomplish other activities under this grant. The grant funds are to be used to retrofit existing structures that do not have the eligible safety features or to upgrade facilities whose features are dated. The funds are not to be used to supplement new construction.

There are no monetary limits on the individual initiatives under this activity such as vehicle exhaust systems, sprinkler systems or smoke/fire alarm systems, but no applicant can request more than \$100,000 in the modifications per fire station under their jurisdiction.

#### *Fire Prevention Program.*

USFA may make grants for the purpose of establishing or enhancing a fire prevention program. Appropriate activities in this program include, but are not limited to the following: public education, public awareness, enforcing fire codes, inspector certification, purchase and installation of smoke alarms and fire suppression systems, and arson prevention and detection activities. Applicants can apply for as many related activities under this function as necessary.

Eligible expenses to carry out these activities would include costs such as a fire education/safety trailer, personnel, transportation, equipment (including appropriate personal protective equipment), supplies, and contracted services which are directly associated with the implementation of the proposed activity. Tow vehicles or other means of transport may be eligible as a transportation expense if adequately justified in the proposal, but transportation expenses will be limited to \$6,000 per year.

Construction is not eligible under this program. A safety village that is not transportable would be considered construction, and therefore, not eligible. Firearms are also not eligible.

#### *Emergency Medical Services Program.*

USFA may make grants for the purpose of establishing or enhancing a fire department's emergency medical services program. Applicants can apply the training activity, the equipment acquisition activity, or the wellness and fitness activity or all of these activities under this program area.