



CAL FIRE
Pismo Beach Fire Department

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Robert Lewin, Fire Chief

GENERAL SERVICES

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February 28, 2013

Off Highway Vehicle License Fund Grant Application Packet

1. Submittal Date: 2-28-13
2. Name, address, phone and email address of applicant:
City of Pismo Beach Fire Department Lifeguard Division
760 Mattie Road Pismo Beach CA, 93449
805-773-7031
Paul.Lee@fire.ca.gov
3. Title of project:
Clear Communications with State Park Rangers using Handheld Multi-Band Radios
4. Amount of funding requested:
\$10,000
5. Objective of project:
To provide constant communication ability to Lifeguards during patrol and Junior Lifeguard program while on the beach with State Parks for reporting illegal OHV use.
6. Complete project description:
The CAL FIRE/Pismo Beach Fire Department operates the Pismo Beach Lifeguard Division. Lifeguards are hired on a seasonal basis and will work from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. The lifeguards protect a 1.5-mile stretch of beach with five lifeguard towers and a patrol vehicle. A Lead Lifeguard who reports directly to an on-duty Fire Captain or the Battalion Chief supervises lifeguards. Seasonal staffing consists of 20-25 lifeguards. The Lifeguard Program is responsible for providing an elevated intensity of life and beach safety to the residents and visitors of Pismo Beach, the Lifeguards protect over 400,000 visitors to each year.

Pismo Beach Junior Lifeguard program provides the youth of our community with life skills in fundamental ocean swimming techniques and acquaint them with the hazards of ocean swimming in a

courteous, respectful, and positive teaching environment. Participants learn the basic components of water safety, lifeguarding, surf rescue, ocean swimming, surf riding, care and handling of ocean rescue equipment, illegal/legal use of OHV's on the beach, CPR, first aid, marine life studies. Pismo Beach Junior Lifeguards also have an opportunity to compete in Junior Lifeguard competitions, learn to kayak, take a field trip to the Mustang Water Slides and participate in an overnight campout. Experienced Pismo Beach Lifeguards provide instruction.

Lifeguards come in contact with vehicles that come out of the OHV area or confuse the OHV area with the Pismo Beach non OHV area and enter into the City where OHV's are not allowed. OHV's are not allowed on the Pismo Beach because of the amount of foot traffic, other life safety concerns, impact to the environment and private property. Lifeguards when faced with stopping an OHV driving on the beach from the State Park OHV area must communicate their actions with other Lifeguards so their assigned stretch of beach can be covered so a missed rescue does not occur. The Lifeguard must educate the driver and follow up with the State Park Rangers to ensure the OHV makes a safe return to the City Street or the approved OHV area; the above must be communicated by handheld radio. If the OHV driver is uncooperative the Lifeguard must notify the State Park Rangers and the City of Pismo Beach Police Department to help prevent loss to Life, Environment and Property.

Pismo Beach Lifeguards also provide a Junior Lifeguard program part of which helps educated the community youth about OVH safety, use for emergencies and legal areas of operation.

Pismo Beach Lifeguards and the Fire Department provide and receive auto aid and mutual aid from the State Park Rangers year round for Beach, Surf, Open Ocean Rescue and OHV accidents. To meet the needs of auto aid, mutual aid and overall safety on the beach from OHV's, modern handheld radios are needed. The State Park Rangers use frequency bands that the Lifeguards/Fire Department do not have as they use VHF radios, because of the different radio bands State Parks and the Lifeguard/Fire Department cannot communicate to each other easily. This above communications issue is a concern to the Lifeguards/Fire Department as carrying 2 radios is not practical while on foot.

To avoid communication issues with State Parks this Department recommends a Handheld Multi-Band Radio be in the Lifeguard vehicle(s) and their supervisor's vehicle(s); to help maintain beach coverage and communications with State Park Rangers when OHV's are illegally used on the beach and when responding with State Park Rangers to a Rescue or OHV Accident.

7. Project development schedule:

The purchase of 2 Handheld Multi-Band Radios would occur as soon as the funds are available, life expectancy is 5 years.

8. Justification for project, including explanation of public benefit, (expected frequency of use, number of users, type of users, etc.) discussion of alternatives for accomplishing project objectives:

The purchase of the handheld radios will allow Lifeguards to better communicate with State Park Rangers, request assistance when trying to educate the OHV user/public and help to maintain a safe environment for visitors (Public).

The use of the radios would be 7 days a week during the summer season when the lifeguards are on duty. The radios will also be used by firefighting staff when lifeguards are off duty 24/7.

The use of cell phones could be considered but they could be more expensive for a service plan and not as durable in the wet, corrosive and sandy environment. Cell phone calls to a dispatch center are more distracting to a dispatcher than radio traffic, can be dropped and at times are a less priority than radio traffic. Carrying 2 radios or a cell phone and radio are not practical while on foot and does not allow for other lifesaving equipment to be carried.

9. Long-range plans and maintenance of the project (if applicable):

Radio life is 5 years with routine maintenance and updates to radio plans.

10. Description of land status, ownership, legal description, vicinity and site maps (if applicable)

The Beach is owned by State Parks and leased by the City of Pismo Beach. The beach is located North of the City and State Park boundary to the rocky cliff 1.5 miles North. The radios will be used during auto aid, mutual aid and on other State Park property when requested to respond via the response agreements.

11. Land Owner Authorization to complete project (if applicable):

City of Pismo Beach Fire Department Lifeguard Division

12. The history of condition and status of resource and expected benefits:

The Fire Department Lifeguard Division has historically purchased all handheld VHF radios for the Lifeguard Program which benefits State Park Rangers in regards to clear communication and education of OHV users operating outside the OHV Park on the City leased beach. The past purchases of VHF radios do not allow for clear communications to State Park Rangers as the two agencies operate on different frequency bands. The extreme environmental conditions of the beach make for a short life of the Handheld Radio of 5 years. With the new purchase the Handheld Multi-Band Radios will allow for better communications for the next 5 years with State Park Rangers and to help better educate and enforce OHV use in the legal areas of operation.

13. Copies of design plans, as well as any information you feel is necessary for the complete review of this project:

4 Thales Liberty Handheld Multi-Band Radio Packages

14. Detailed descriptions and estimated costs of expenditures related to the project. No more than 10 percent of the requested funding may be applied to administrative cost associated with the project:

\$20,000 Thales Liberty Handheld Multi-Band Radio Packages
Includes tax and shipping.

15. Amount of match funds, materials and/or volunteer efforts that are designated toward this project (if applicable):

Funds provided last year are \$929.34 to replace 2 VHF radios. Lifeguard staffing is provided with a directive to educate OHV users to not drive in the non-OHV area.

16. Experience of applicant completing similar projects to the grant being applied for:
None.

17. Response to how your project meets the Allowable Use Criteria and the Grant Application Evaluation Criteria for the category you are applying for (Operation and Maintenance, Restoration, Law Enforcement or Education and Safety) as outlined on pages 2-5 of this document.
We feel we fall under both Education & Safety and Law Enforcement.

Pismo Beach Lifeguards will enforce laws and educate OHV operators that drive their OHV in an area not designated for OHV use. The Lifeguards also educate the youth of the community via the Junior Lifeguard program the appropriate use of OHV's and where the local OHV use areas are. Lifeguards and the Fire Department respond to Rescues and OHV accidents in the OHV area. Clear communications with the State Park Rangers in the OHV area are critical.

