



STATE OF NEBRASKA

Don Stenberg, State Treasurer

State Capitol, Suite 2005 | P.O. Box 94788 | Lincoln, NE 68509 | 402-471-2455 | www.treasurer.org

November 30, 2012

Dear Governor Heineman, Clerk of the Legislature O'Donnell, and State Senators:

The 2011-2012 report of disbursements made to Mutual Finance Organizations and Fire Protection Districts under Nebraska's Mutual Finance Assistance Fund is included with this letter.

As you know, the Mutual Finance Assistance Fund was established by the Legislature in 1998 to provide aid to rural or suburban Fire Protection Districts (FPDs) and Mutual Finance Organizations (MFOs) "for the purpose of financing operational and equipment needs for fire protection, emergency response, or training."

The Treasury Management Division of the State Treasurer's Office is responsible for receiving applications for these funds and disbursing the funds each year. A total of \$3.35 million was disbursed to FPDs and MFOs in 2011-2012.

For the second year, the Treasurer's Office is highlighting how these cooperative organizations are making use of state funds to serve and protect Nebraskans. This year our focus is on the Knox County Mutual Finance Organization. Through our correspondence with Nebraskans across the state, we understand the vital role that MFOs and FPDs played in protecting resources threatened by grass and wild fires as a result of the hot and dry summer of 2012. Like you, we are grateful for their service and sacrifice.

Please contact Michelle Raphael, director of Treasury Management, with questions or with other examples of service that we might feature in future publications. You may contact her at 402-471-4146 or michelle.raaphael@nebraska.gov. You also will find more information under the Treasury Management tab at our website, www.treasurer.org. Thank you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Don Stenberg".

Don Stenberg
Nebraska State Treasurer

Attachments

DS:jll

A REPORT ON THE 2011-2012 DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS
MUTUAL FINANCE ASSISTANCE ACT
Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §35-1207(1)

To

Honorable Dave Heineman
Governor of Nebraska
And
Members of the
Nebraska Legislature

Prepared by



Treasury Management Division
Nebraska State Treasurer's Office
Don Stenberg, Treasurer

November 30, 2012

**2011-2012 Mutual Finance Organization Report to the Legislature
Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat § 35-1207(1)**

Total MFO Appropriated FY 2011-2012: \$3,350,000.00

Actual MFO Distributed FY 2011-2012: \$3,350,000.00

Total MFO funds applied for FY 2011-2012: \$3,832,090.00

Disbursements to MFOs were prorated at approximately 87.419 percent to meet the maximum appropriation of \$3,350,000.

Transfer to General Fund Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat § 35-1207(3): \$1,131,454.83

MFO Distributions 2011-2012	
Banner	\$5,524.90
Boone	\$45,362.10
Box Butte	\$97,263.10
Brown	\$25,587.70
Burt	\$58,308.90
Butler	\$69,288.80
Colfax	\$91,878.10
Custer	\$89,675.10
Dakota	\$217,596.30
Dawson	\$234,206.00
Douglas/Millard	\$262,258.70
Gage	\$190,015.40
Grant/Sandhills	\$5,787.20
Hooker/Mullen	\$7,360.70
Jefferson	\$71,902.70
Johnson	\$42,713.20
Keya Paha	\$6,879.90
Knox	\$72,715.70
Lincoln	\$262,259.00
Logan/Stapleton	\$6,224.30
Madison	\$262,259.00
McPherson	\$4,266.10
Nance	\$28,761.10
Nemaha	\$54,716.00
Pawnee	\$21,793.70

Phelps	\$78,363.00
Pierce	\$58,212.80
Polk	\$39,758.50
Red Willow	\$93,451.60
Richardson	\$69,717.20
Rock	\$12,876.90
Saline	\$117,072.40
Saunders	\$162,049.80
Scotts Bluff	\$262,259.00
Seward	\$141,925.80
Thomas/Theford	\$4,913.00
Wayne	\$74,796.30
Total	\$3,350,000.00

BANNER COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members and used for capital improvements.

BOONE COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members of the organization.

BOX BUTTE COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members and used for operations, equipment and training for their respective fire departments and fire protection districts.

BROWN COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were set aside for a pumper for Brown County and fire truck for Ainsworth.

BURT COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were used to replace outdated equipment, trucks, tankers, rescue equipment, helmets and air packs.

BUTLER COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were used to purchase bunker gear, hoses, training and equipment to supply fire trucks.

COLFAX COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were used for fire bunker gear, fire equipment and safety equipment for the Schuyler Rural Fire District. The money was used for replacement of a 1989 rural engine with a 2011

model for the Clarkson Rural Fire District, Jaws of Life equipment and fire training facility for the Howells Rural Fire District and fire equipment and water rescue equipment for the Leigh Rural Fire District.

CUSTER COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members. The following list includes examples of items purchased with MFO funds: Scott air packs, foam inductor for a brush truck, bunker gear, wild land fire gear, fire helmets, leather boots, fire-tornado siren, tanker fill tower for use at irrigation wells, hoses needed after the summer fires, adjustable nozzles and fire med bed for a John Deere Gator. Because of the large number of fires this past summer, all of the fire departments would have been in the red without MFO funds.

DAKOTA COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to Allen-Waterbury Rural Fire District for electricity, pagers, telephone, diesel; Dakota City for operating expenses; Wakefield for training, insurance and operating expenses; Dakota Covington Rural Fire District for operating, training and maintenance; Dixon Rural Fire for operating expenses and training; Emerson Rural Fire for operating expenses and insurance; Martinsburg Rural Fire for regular expenses; South Sioux City for salaries, FICA, insurance, pension, training, tuition; Village of Allen for operating, training and maintenance; Village of Emerson for regular expenses and insurance; Village of Homer for operating expenses; Martinsburg for insurance, operating expenses; Newcastle for operating, training and insurance; and Wakefield Rural Fire for truck maintenance, fuel and regular expenses.

DAWSON COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members based on the subdivision's property value as a percentage of the total MFO valuation. The funds are required to be used for emergency fire and rescue operations and equipment/capital acquisitions.

GAGE COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were used for two pumper truck lease payments, purchase of land for a new fire station, structural firefighting clothes, handheld and mobile radios, pagers, fire and extrication tools, fire hose, nozzles, appliances, training, self-contained breathing apparatus and fire hydrants.

GRANT COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were used in part for Hazmat gear, booster tank, bunker coat, cap, air hose coupler and labor to make blow-out.

HOOKER COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were used to purchase personal protective gear and extrication equipment.

JEFFERSON COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were used for equipment purchases, bunker gear and capital improvements.

JOHNSON COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members to purchase/pay for insurance, fuel, maintenance and equipment.

KEYA PAHA COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were used to replace a pumper.

KNOX COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members of the organization for firefighting equipment and supplies.

LINCOLN COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members and used to purchase a grass fire truck, repairs on apparatus and equipment, structural firefighting gear, wild land firefighting protective clothing, pay on communications equipment for tower, a used pumper, Pro Pak Foam Units, new pickup truck for grass rig, bunker gear, air packs, rope rescue equipment and partial payment for tanker. If a member didn't have specific earmarks, funds were deposited into the general fund and included in the budget to be used for programs and equipment. Programs are fire suppression, Paramedic Emergency Medical Services, Technician Level Hazmat Response, fire prevention, code enforcement and public education. The money also was used to lease/purchase three 12- lead Life Pak 15s for the paramedic service program.

LOGAN COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were used to purchase bunker gear and skid units.

MADISON COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members at the same ratio that taxable valuation of the participant is in relation to the total taxable valuation of all the participants. A broad range of items were purchased wholly or in part by these funds. Examples include fire hose, personal protective bunker gear, self-contained breathing apparatus, fire pumps, fire tankers, grass rigs, communication equipment, hand tools, Jaws of Life and other extrication equipment, ventilation fans, portable pumps, lighting equipment and other miscellaneous items.

MCPHERSON COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were used to help purchase a replacement water tanker.

MILLARD MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were used to augment property tax revenue and to pay operating expenses to provide fire and emergency medical services. These services are provided through an inter-local agreement with the City of Omaha.

NANCE COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members and were used to purchase air tanks, Jaws of Life, new gear and fuel. A new building is being looked at for one member, and interest is being paid on a new fire truck for another.

NEMAHA COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members and used for insurance, fuel, maintenance and equipment.

PAWNEE COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members and used for insurance, fuel, maintenance, supplies, repairs and equipment.

PHELPS COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members and used for training expenses for firefighters and first responders, purchase of a trailer for the cascade equipment, new pagers, life insurance for firefighters, truck repairs, personnel protective gear, supplies to outfit a grass rig, upkeep of a fire hall, fire hall insurance, fire hall utilities, emergency communication lines and emergency sounding devices, individual and vehicle communication equipment, education materials for fire prevention and property taxes.

PIERCE COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members and used for two new trucks, new ambulance, general fund expenses and bunker gear and equipment.

POLK COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members and used for firefighter gear, grass fire equipment, radio equipment and grass fire truck improvements.

RED WILLOW COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members in two parts. One part will be distributed among members of the Red Willow County Fire Protection Mutual Finance Organization in the same ratio that taxable valuation of the member is in relation to the total taxable valuation of all the members. The

second part will be distributed among members in the same ratio that the assumed population of the rural districts plus the estimated actual populations of the member cities and villages.

RICHARDSON COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members and used for salaries, fuel, insurance, repairs, worker's compensation insurance, utilities, truck purchase, equipment, fire building expenses, propane and CPA fees.

ROCK COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members, and a portion was placed in a joint emergency fund.

SALINE COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members and used for the partial purchase of new pumper/tanker, previous truck payments, capital improvements to the building/payments, upgrades to existing equipment, new gear and supplies.

SAUNDERS COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members and used for breathing air compressor, four tires, Jaws of Life/e-tools combo, partial tanker truck payment, helmets, boots, gloves, truck maintenance, in-house training for volunteers, pagers, capital improvements, repairs and pump for village well, tanker truck repairs, insulation for fire hall, bunker gear, new ambulance, air packs, breathing apparatus, general maintenance, equipment payments, hoses, training for EMTs and firefighters, flashlights, thermal detection camera and a roof saw.

SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members and used for trucks, personal protective equipment, fire hoses, fire nozzles and other protective equipment.

SEWARD COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members and used for bunker gear, hoses, LDH hose and adaptors, radios, pagers, training equipment, grass rig, foam inductor, chain saw and rope rescue equipment.

THOMAS COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members and used two sets of bunker gear, four pairs of interior fire boots, interior fire gloves, extrication gloves and wild land helmets and gloves.

WAYNE COUNTY MFO

FY 11-12 MFO funds were distributed to members and used for operating expenses, insurance, utilities, maintenance, training and gear.

MFOs Bring ‘Peace of Mind’ and ‘Purpose’ to Rural Firefighters

By Jana Langemach, Director of Communications, Nebraska State Treasurer’s Office

Given the opportunity, Laura Hintz said, she can’t help but brag about the Knox County volunteer firefighters and first responders, not only because of their technical skill, but also because of their selfless cooperation.

“I think I have some of the best fire and rescue departments in the state,” said Hintz, who is the Knox County emergency manager. “It’s the fact they all work together... and egos are at a minimum. The departments train together and all get along well. They are just a good bunch of people.”

Hintz said she was particularly impressed last October when 11 fire departments – seven from Knox County and four from adjacent Antelope and Pierce counties – responded to a grass fire two miles south of Center, the county seat. Strong winds fueled the fire that stretched over a couple hundred acres with the potential to spread through nearby canyons and trees.

No injuries or damaged structures

Firefighters brought the fire under control in four hours and keep the situation from becoming a disaster, Hintz said. No one was injured and no structures were burned.

The fire outside Center was one of a half dozen fires fought last summer by fire departments in the Knox County Mutual Finance Organization (MFO). Each year, Mutual Finance Organizations (MFOs) like the one in Knox County and Fire Protection Districts (FPDs) receive aid from the state’s Mutual Finance Assistance Fund. This fiscal year, \$3.35 million will be divided among 37 MFOs and FPDs in the state, according to the Treasury Management Division of the Nebraska State Treasurer’s Office.

The Knox County MFO is made up of six rural and merged fire districts and three village fire departments, said David Carlson, chair of the Knox County MFO and chief of the Wausa Volunteer Fire Department. The Wausa team, one of the members of the Knox County MFO, includes 30 male firefighters – some also are emergency medical technicians – and 2 female EMTs. Among the volunteers are farmers, teachers, business owners, construction workers, and semi-retired individuals.

In addition to farmland and small towns, the county includes Niobrara State Park, the Santee Sioux Indian Reservation, and the Missouri National Recreation River on the Nebraska-South Dakota border.

New equipment and expanded capabilities

Carlson said the Knox County MFO will use its state aid this year to replace outdated equipment and to add to its capabilities. The Wausa Fire Department, for instance, is using its allocation to purchase rope rescue equipment for use in extricating victims from accidents involving deep ditches or grain bins and lighter, heat resistant gear for fighting wild land fires.

“We have to have essential things in our budget like heat, electricity, fuel for the trucks, and insurance. These are our priority budgetary items,” Carlson said. “Supplies like wild land gear wouldn’t be possible if we didn’t have additional funds available,” such as aid through the Mutual Finance Assistance Fund.

“It’s peace of mind. That’s the best way I can describe it,” Carlson said. “Maybe we cannot handle every situation or take every situation through to completion, but we know we can start, get something done, rather than just wait for a rope rescue team to come from Lincoln. We have a purpose for being there.”

Carlson said Knox County residents appreciate the volunteer firefighters’ commitment and freely hand out compliments and words of thanks. “Being a businessman on Main Street exposes me to a lot of people. Whether I walk into the Post Office or the grocery store or the mini mart, I often hear, ‘You guys did such a great job fighting this fire,’ or ‘We are so thankful you were there on this rescue call.’”

In turn, Carlson said, when the Knox County MFO members gather for their annual meeting each spring or early summer, he hears positive comments about their participation in the Mutual Finance Assistance Fund. “We appreciate the fact that the state realizes our work is important,” he said. At the annual meeting, “we get together to talk about any issues that have arisen in the last year and whether we want to reapply to participate,” he said. “The vote is always unanimous to reapply.”



The Wausa Volunteer Fire Department, one of the members of the Knox County MFO.

Photo courtesy *Wausa Gazette*