



LOCAL SAFETY AND SECURITY EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

Enhancing Accessibility and Efficiency for Kansans

July 2025

The Local Safety and Security Equipment (LSSE) Grant Program provides funding to enhance the accessibility and efficiency of services delivered to Kansans. This is achieved through investments in modernizing information technology infrastructure, ensuring continuity of operations, improving safety and security, and replacing wildland firefighting equipment. Funding for this program is made available through the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, as authorized by the Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas Taskforce and approved by the State Finance Council.

A total of 149 LSSE applications were submitted, requesting \$26,495,484 to address critical infrastructure and safety needs across Kansas. Of these, 72 projects were awarded grants totaling \$6,351,791. Eligible applicants were primarily emergency response entities aiming to improve service delivery through targeted investments in the following five areas:

1. Modernization of IT infrastructure
2. Continuity of operations
3. Safety and security
4. Replacement of wildland firefighting equipment
5. Enhanced accessibility and service efficiency

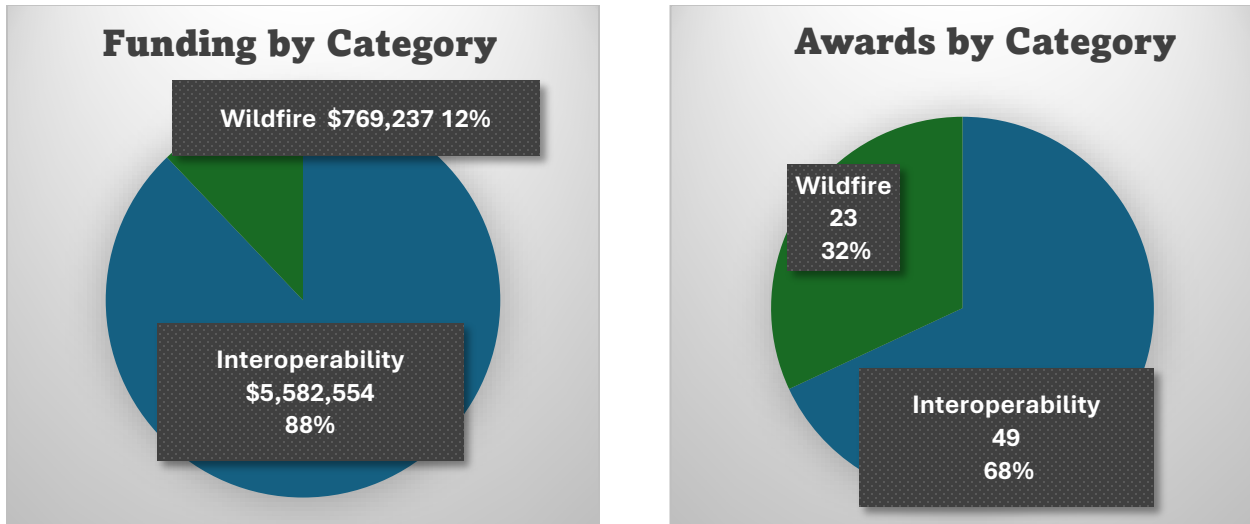
All 72 funded projects addressed at least three of these five priority areas. The awarded grant projects were analyzed across key outcome areas:

- Enhancing interoperability to increase efficiency of communications
 - 49 of 72 projects
- Increasing officer and citizen safety
 - 72 of 72 projects
- Ensuring compliance with federal communication encryption standards
 - 49 of 72 projects
- Decreasing risk of equipment failure through modernization
 - 66 of 72 projects (Equipment only)
 - 72 of 72 projects (Equipment, Personal Protective Equipment, or Apparatus)
- Replacing equipment or apparatus damaged or destroyed by wildfires
 - 6 of 72 projects (Specified as wildfire-related)
 - 23 of 72 projects (Unspecified damage/destruction)

Funded grant projects were further classified based on their primary purpose into two main categories:

- Interoperability
- Wildfire Response & Recovery

The charts below depict funding and grant award allocations per category.



Upon completing the grant project each subgrantee was required to submit a Grant Project Narrative Report to provide outcome measures responding to the following:

- The agency's progress in adherence to the federal communication encryption standards through pre-/post-grant status reports;
- The increase in efficiency in delivery of services through post-award reporting; and
- The increase in interoperability of communications for service delivery through post-incident reporting or other proposed methods.

Analysis of the reports confirmed the awarded agencies effectively utilized the funding, with measurable improvements in interoperability, safety, equipment reliability, and compliance with federal encryption standards as shown in the results below.

- 80 percent of the agencies receiving funds will increase interoperability of communications for service delivery.
 - 49 agencies received funds to increase interoperability. Of the 49 agencies, 100 percent reported increased interoperability exceeding the goal by 20 percent.

- 85 percent of the agencies receiving funds will reach adherence to the federal communication encryption standards.
 - Of the 49 agencies who received funding to increase interoperability, 88 percent reported full adherence to the federal encryption standards with the residual 12 percent reporting adherence pending additional funding or completion of projects currently underway.
- 100 percent of local fire departments receiving funds to replace equipment or fire apparatus will improve efficiency in delivery of services.
 - 23 agencies received funding to replace fire equipment and/or personal protective equipment, of which 100 percent reported improved efficiency in delivery of services.

Sample of Grant Project Narrative Reports

Baxer Spring PD: The radios have provided a greater degree of officer safety, creating an increase in morale throughout the department. Additionally, we can be compliant with the federal communication encryption standards.

Cherokee County SO: Our law enforcement officers are now able to communicate clearly in the field with each other, other neighboring jurisdictions, and our communications center. Even in areas that were previously considered "dead zones." The award of this grant has not only enabled us to comply with federal standards but also has solved a long-stemming communications issue for law enforcement and public safety in Cherokee County.

Hiawatha PD: The LSSE grant has been transformative for the Hiawatha Police Department and the Hiawatha community. The grant enhanced officer safety and reliability as well as provided us with secure communication which is the lifeline of every officer in the field. Improved communications and coordination mean better protection for our residents and more seamless communications with our mutual aid partners strengthens regional response to emergencies and major incidents.

Grandview Plaza FD: Grandview Plaza Firefighters have been more enthusiastic going to wildfire calls after receiving proper wildland gear through this opportunity. There have been less heat casualties due to the less restrictive gear allowing us to perform at a higher level resulting in better service to the community and safety for our service members.

Gray County SO: The new radios offer peace of mind, knowing our deputies, Emergency Medical Service (EMS), fire and Kansas Highway Patrol services are all able to communicate effectively with each other, now and in the years to come. One area that we were not expecting to see improvement in efficiency was in our local schools. The construction materials used in these buildings rendered us unable to transmit or receive

on our old radios and left our deputies without communication to the outside world. This feature is very important, especially in the event of a shooting. Knowing you can count on the voice at the other end of the radio, be it a dispatcher or one of our own, is a huge safety factor while on duty or monitoring communications while at home. The public is well served, knowing we are only a radio transmission away!

Fairmount Township FD: Due to our tremendous growth within Fairmount Township and the City of Basehor (an increase of 106% in population over the last 10 years) budget restraints were put in place. We were forced to make a staffing vs. equipment decision regarding budget priorities, but due to this incredible opportunity we were able to do both. We now have the ability to communicate with neighboring jurisdictions who we supply and rely on for automatic mutual aid. These updated radios give us the ability to communicate, within federal and state requirements, with our mutual aid partners such as Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department, Bonner Springs Fire & EMS, and the Basehor Police Department. Many of these jurisdictions have already upgraded their radio inventory, which eliminated our ability to communicate with them using the older model radios.

Jewell County Sheriff's Office: Jewell County used grant funding to upgrade its outdated radio system to meet Federal Bureau of Investigation compliance standards by implementing encrypted communication. Previously, dispatchers had to call deputies directly to share sensitive information, but the new encrypted radios now allow secure radio transmissions, improving efficiency and ensuring confidentiality during operations.

Lyon County FD5: We were able to get the wildfire monitors installed prior to the grass fire season. The feedback was tremendous. We still struggle to get volunteers to respond in the daytime. With the monitors if we can only muster two volunteers, we can send two trucks and remain effective. Previously it took two per truck to be truly effective. As the assistant fire chief, I personally have utilized the monitors several times as the sole firefighter on a truck. It allowed me to remain safely seated and belted in the cab while attacking a running grass fire. We had a day with extreme conditions when a series of grass fires began along I-35. Our first truck had a single volunteer on board and was able to save a home that had fire progressing through its back yard. The volunteer was able to nose into the back yard and use the monitor to beat back the flames saving the home. The battalion chief from the Emporia Fire Department watched it unfold and said fire was curling over the top of the truck. In my opinion that alone justified the cost of the monitors. To date we have initially attacked 20 wildland fires while being cancelled enroute to five more.

Larned 911 Communications: Larned 911 Communications can safely monitor radio traffic in county and out of county, and the new equipment satisfies the federal encryption standards which were not met with the old equipment. This funding provided crucial equipment to keep the 911 center up to date to serve the community and neighboring communities. 911 is now able to listen to multiple channels at the same time and run emergency traffic. This allows for regular traffic to occur as the emergency incident

unfolds. 911 can monitor out of county traffic and alert emergency services as the situation nears service jurisdictions (car chase, wildland fires, etc.). This allows for operations to be seamless and operate a large-scale incident with multiple agencies smoothly.

Mulvane Department of Public Safety: The grant enabled Mulvane Police and Fire Departments to replace outdated Ultra High Frequency radios with P-25 tri-band encrypted radios, resolving past communication issues between Sumner and Sedgwick Counties. Officers now carry a single radio with Advanced Encryption Standards, bringing the city into Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) compliance, while the Fire Department's new radios improve interoperability with mutual aid partners and during statewide deployments, enhancing safety and response effectiveness.

Russell Fire Department: With the LSSE grant, the City of Russell Fire Department replaced aging hose with 72 new joints of attack and supply lines, improving readiness for structure and grass fires. Although not yet used in an incident, the new hose meets National Fire Protection Association standards and ensures more reliable fire protection for both the department and its mutual aid partners.

Stanton County Sheriff's Office/Stanton County EMS: Stanton County improved communication and compliance by replacing malfunctioning radios with new APX 800 MHz units across the Sheriff's Office, EMS, and Fire/Rescue. These radios feature Federal Information Processing Standards 140-2 128-bit encryption for secure CJIS and patient information transmission, while repurposed older radios now support volunteer responders, enhancing coordination and reliability during emergencies.

Thomas County EMS: The implementation of Lund University Cardiopulmonary Assist System mechanical CPR devices has improved the quality and consistency of chest compressions by eliminating human fatigue and variability. Data from real cases show better compression ratios, fewer interruptions, and safer conditions for responders, especially during transport, allowing for more effective life-saving interventions during cardiac emergencies.

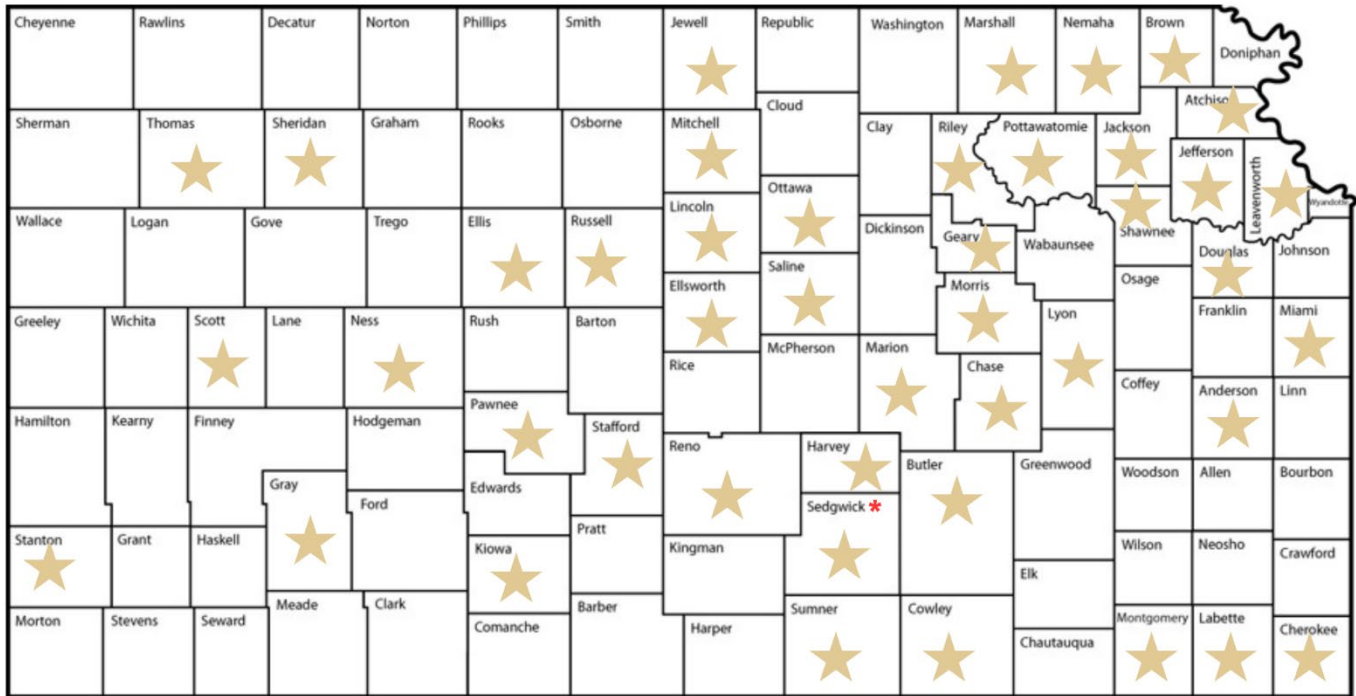
LSSE Grant Awards		
County	Organization Name	Grant Award
Anderson	Garnett Police Department	\$85,139
Atchison	Atchison Fire Department	\$9,360
Brown	Hiawatha Police Department	\$55,001
Butler	Andover Fire and Rescue	\$31,050
Butler	Whitewater River Consolidated Fire District	\$58,950
Chase	Chase County Fire Department	\$28,800
Cherokee	Baxter Springs Police Department	\$90,000
Cherokee	Cherokee County Sheriff's Office	\$163,345
Cowley	Burden Police Department	\$29,700
Cowley	Cowley County Fire District 3	\$56,446
Cowley	Cowley County Fire District 4	\$50,625
Cowley	Winfield Fire/ Emergency Medical Services	\$89,100
Douglas	Consolidated Fire District 1	\$53,505
Douglas	Lawrence Douglas County Fire Medical	\$119,430
Ellis	Ellis County	\$192,200
Ellis	Victoria Volunteer Fire Department	\$22,675
Ellsworth	Wilson Fire Department	\$19,750
Geary	Grandview Plaza Fire Department	\$17,988

Gray	Gray County Sheriff's Office	\$72,000
Harvey	City of North Newton	\$30,044
Jackson	Jackson County Sheriff's Office	\$309,044
Jackson	Netawaka Rural Fire District 6	\$63,450
Jefferson	City of Valley Falls	\$26,550
Jefferson	Jefferson County Ambulance Service	\$75,432
Jefferson	Jefferson County Fire District 5	\$51,975
Jewell	Jewell County Sheriff's Office	\$61,345
Kiowa	Kiowa County	\$76,400
Labette	Labette County	\$212,500
Labette	Oswego Fire Department	\$42,876
Leavenworth	Fairmount Township Fire Department	\$43,177
Leavenworth	Tonganoxie Police Department	\$29,808
Leavenworth	Tonganoxie Fire Department	\$29,808
Lincoln	Lincoln County Sheriff's Office	\$86,507
Lyon	Lyon County Fire District 5	\$14,713
Lyon	Olpe Fire District 1	\$14,558
Marion	Marion County Sheriff's Office	\$108,000
Marshall	Marysville Police Department	\$62,640
Miami	Miami County	\$24,504
Mitchell	Hunter Rural Fire District	\$23,400
Montgomery	Coffeyville Police Department	\$72,530

Montgomery	Independence Fire/ Emergency Medical Services	\$43,599
Morris	Council Grove Fire Department	\$39,275
Nemaha	Nemaha County Sheriff's Office	\$350,000
Ness	Ness County	\$21,567
Ness	Ness County Sheriff's Office	\$42,193
Ottawa	City of Minneapolis	\$87,273
Pawnee	Larned 911 Communications	\$46,824
Pawnee	Pawnee County Sheriff's Office	\$72,000
Pottawatomie	Pottawatomie County Sheriff's Office	\$103,025
Pottawatomie	Westmoreland Fire Department	\$134,550
Reno	City of Pretty Prairie	\$40,415
Reno	Hutchinson Community College Fire Science	\$18,810
Reno	Hutchinson Fire Department	\$52,110
Reno	South Hutchinson Fire Department	\$59,362
Riley	Riley County Fire District 1	\$15,660
Russell	Lucas Rural Fire District 2	\$28,788
Russell	Russell Fire Department	\$27,000
Saline	Saline County Rural Fire District 1	\$22,194
Scott	Scott City Police Department	\$72,450
Scott	Scott County Emergency Medical Services	\$134,098
Sedgwick	City of Andale	\$30,150
Sedgwick	Clearwater Police Department	\$52,095

Sedgwick	Sedgwick County	\$1,625,110
Sedgwick	Wichita Fire Department	\$98,484
Shawnee	Shawnee Heights Fire Department	\$24,800
Sheridan	Sheridan County Rural Fire Department 1	\$90,000
Stafford	Stafford County	\$37,620
Stanton	Stanton County Sheriff's Office/Emergency Medical Services	\$121,950
Sumner	Mulvane Department of Public Safety	\$80,474
Sumner	Wellington Fire/EMS	\$17,640
Thomas	Colby Fire Department	\$26,347
Thomas	Thomas County Emergency Medical Services	\$31,603
	TOTAL	\$6,351,791

LSSE Funding



***Sedgwick County** includes the following: Airport PD, Bel Aire PD, Bentley PD, Cheney PD, Colwich PD, Courthouse Police, Derby PD, District Attorney's Office, Eastborough, Emergency Management, Garden Plain PD, Goddard PD, Haysville PD, Kechi PD, Maize PD, Mount Hope PD, Park City PD, Radio Shop, Sedgwick County FD, Sheriff, Sheriff (Jail), USD 265, Valley Center PD, Wichita FD, Wichita PD, Wichita State University, and 911.