



HOMELAND SECURITY

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New Deliveries



Newport News, Virginia- When the Newport News Fire Department in Newport News, Va., needed a new hazmat rescue, they knew they needed the biggest one they could build. In addition to their own jurisdiction of more than 180,000 citizens to protect, the department is also one of the regional hazmat teams for the State

Grant Writing Made Easier

Grant writing is not an easy task, but it has its rewards, and just about every department is eligible for some of the resources currently available. With the recent rise in commitment of state and federal funds to the fire and emergency services, more and more fire departments are joining the ranks of those receiving grants for new equipment, training, and even apparatus. If you waded through the lengthy instructions that precede applying for one of these grants, you'll find the applications are quite similar. They ask for a description of what you need, an explanation of why you need it, and sometimes they ask you to match part of the funds.

The biggest commitment involved in applying for a grant is *time*. It takes time to research available grants, to determine whether your department qualifies and to fill out the application—usually a throwback to the essay exams you remember from high school. So Pierce has taken on some of that workload for you. We talked with Paul PierAgostini, manager of government and homeland security business development for Oshkosh Truck Corporation, who has spent quite a bit of time in the trenches of grant writing. Below you'll find some of the information he provided on grants available to fire departments and some helpful hints for when you apply.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (also known as The FIRE Act)

A one-year grant established to fund the basic needs of local fire departments, these grants are awarded in one of three categories:

- Operations and firefighter safety
- Fire prevention
- Fire fighting vehicles

Eligibility extends to career, volunteer, and combination fire departments of a state or territory, or fire departments that perform emergency medical and rescue services (EMS)

of Virginia. With the addition of equipment, not only for hazmat response, but also for WMD response, the vehicle they needed would have to be twice the size of their previous rescue. Chief Mike Warner headed up the design of this Lance® tractor-trailer rescue and knew Pierce could provide him with the answer to his problem. "Our sales representative and Pierce engineers were all involved in the process," says Warner. "We needed input on the best way to accommodate all our equipment and they helped us build a highly-customized truck."

The Newport News rescue is equipped with a six-bottle cascade system, Haskel® booster pump, generator, air reels, and as many compartments as they could fit. In addition, the department chose the split-tilt Lance cab to allow for a command center in the back of the cab. "The truck will allow us to carry all our equipment and respond both locally and regionally," said Warner. ♦

provided the unit falls under the backing of the fire department. Private for-profit fire departments, state agencies, federally funded fire departments and organizations that exclusively provide emergency medical and rescue services are not eligible.

The maximum amount available in 2005 for any one department is \$1 million for jurisdictions smaller than 500,000 people. It is further increased to \$1.75 million for jurisdictions between 500,000 and 1 million people. Finally, it is increased to \$2.75 million for those large urban areas with more than 1 million people. This provision is limited by an overall cap that states that no single award can be in excess of one-half of one percent of the total appropriation.

Also, a department may submit only one application in one of the program areas per year. Fire departments serving a population of less than 20,000 are obligated to provide at least a five (5) percent match of the amount of the project. For jurisdictions between 20,000 and 50,000 people, the match is 10 percent, and fire departments serving populations of more than 50,000 must provide a match of 20 percent.

In addition to the required matching funds, the recipient must submit regular progress reports and an audit or program review will be required. Also, all grant recipients must participate in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for at least one year after a grant is received.

The FIRE Act is intended to supplement a department's operating budget, not replace it. Thus, grant recipients must maintain expenses equal to an average of the department's costs for the previous two years for the interest in which the grant is awarded.

The on-line application is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp or www.usfa.fema.gov.

The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Program

Formerly known as the Rural Community Fire Protection Program, the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Program provides federal financial, technical and other assistance to state foresters and other appropriate officials to organize, train and equip fire departments in rural areas and rural communities to prevent and suppress fires. A rural community is defined as having 10,000 or less population.

Eligibility for this program extends to individual fire departments serving populations of 10,000 or less, or fire departments serving populations of greater than 10,000, if their service area includes a rural community as well. The VFA funding must be used to support that rural area.

New Deliveries cont'd



Fort Monmouth, New Jersey

With an overall length of approximately 53 feet and a GVWR of 71,000 lbs, the Fort Monmouth Fire Department's new heavy-duty tractor-trailer rescue rivals the size of many over-the-road trucks. The similarities, however, end there. Located approximately one hour south of New York City, Fort Monmouth is the center of hi-tech research for the Army's Command and Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Sensors and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems.

The fire department, led by Chief John Erichsen, began plans for this über-rescue five years ago, and has been fine-tuning and updating them ever since. "Especially after 9/11, the technology available to us increased, so we modified the design to accommodate the increased needs and equipment," said Erichsen.

The truck replaces a standard hazmat unit for the department, as well as increases their response capabilities for large-scale incidents. It is equipped with a command center in the cab, a Weatherpak®-400 weather station, a Safety

As with many grants, the VFA Program is a cost share. Departments must fund 50 percent of the cost of the equipment or service, and a maximum of \$3,000 per qualifying department per year is available. For more information, visit [Volunteer Fire Assistance Program](#).

Federal Excess and Surplus Property Programs

In addition to funding, federal programs are also available that provide surplus property for use by local fire departments. Federal surplus property is generally sold or distributed through the General Services Administration (GSA). GSA transfers federal surplus property to state agencies that can then distribute it to "eligible recipients," which includes fire departments. Each state has an agency in charge of surplus property distribution. Their contact information can be found at [Federal Excess and Surplus Property](#).

The best recommendation for researching grants is the Internet. Using this resource may be your best and easiest course of action. There are funding resources available for fire departments, but as with any federal program, wading through the small print to understand the requirements and eligibility can be confusing. Use the Internet to search, view instructions and review the information on federal grants, their explanations, and often, the applications.

When applying for a federal grant, the key is to "be as clear and concise as possible. Follow the application process step-by-step," says PierAgostini. "Applying costs only your time."

For more information about what federal grants your fire department qualifies for, visit www.grants.gov. ♦

What do you need?

Building your ideal mobile command post

Buying a mobile command post is more time consuming and is more complex than buying a car off the lot where you choose from option package A, B or C. An extremely customized product, your mobile command post should be built specifically for your department and community. Instead of merely a few choices, you have thousands that need to apply to and be ready for a myriad of emergency situations. As a relatively new market, you're going to need as much information as possible to help make the best decision. So when specifying a mobile command post, what do you need to consider? And how do you make sure the

Vision® backup camera with 6.8" LCD color monitor, a surveillance camera mounted on 25' pneumatic mast, a Zip Dee® awning on the passenger's side with removable side curtains, a removable deck crane, a 120v shallow water well pump, a 240v tankless water heater, a 24-bottle SCBA bottle rack, and a 200-gallon decontamination water tank.



A Contender® body mounted on a commercial chassis is a good choice for the budget-conscious department.



The interior of the Contender mobile command post can be outfitted a number of different ways.

vehicle you build will be able to accommodate every incident your department could encounter?

Designing and building a mobile command post vehicle involves two main components: the chassis/body platform and the interior layout and equipment. Both are equally important and should work together to provide the most useful mobile command post. If you choose a well-equipped command center but not the proper platform, you may not be able to access all incident locations. Likewise, if you choose a huge chassis that can travel to any scene but with few or inadequate interior components and electronics, it might not be able to communicate with all the agencies involved. A balance of both parts, while remaining within your budgetary constraints, is essential. Here's a quick overview to help you choose the right platform for your vehicle.

Chassis/Body Platform Options

Pierce Manufacturing offers several options to consider for the chassis/body platform. Two of these products have their own unique features that are suitable for certain applications:

- Contender® body on a commercial chassis
- Custom chassis and body

A Contender Body on a Commercial Chassis is a solid option for a mobile command post vehicle. It is an economical, heavy rescue-style body of either 18' or 24' for customers who wish to purchase a more rugged "fire service-style" platform. The commercial chassis with Contender body configuration offers more horsepower and better off-road capability than a step van for a mobile command post application. Its heavy-duty construction is characteristically stronger and able to bear more weight than its lighter counterpart. A more cost-effective choice for a budget-conscious department, highly specialized body modifications are not typically available within this product line.

The Contender body/commercial chassis mobile command post offers departments the ruggedness and durability of a fire service vehicle with an interior outfitted with the technology you need. Building on a platform that was designed to have go-anywhere capability affords you the same incident accessibility as any first responder vehicle.

Custom Chassis/Body Combinations provide a top-of-the-line approach to mobile command post vehicles. The Pierce® custom chassis/custom body mobile command post vehicle offers unlimited customization. A Pierce custom heavy rescue body can be mounted on any Pierce two-door, four-door or commercial chassis. High horsepower



The Pierce custom chassis and body combination is the "top-of-the-line" approach to building a mobile command post.

engines, from 300 to 525 hp, with matching transmissions, TAK-4™ independent front suspension and Side Roll Protection™ are available on any of the seven Pierce custom chassis.

Pierce custom bodies are unmatched for strength and durability. Two-inch square aluminum reinforcement tubes are welded behind .188" thick aluminum sheet on the side panels. Due to its superior strength, the heavy rescue custom body carries a 15-year structural warranty.

Similar to the Contender body on a commercial chassis, the Pierce custom chassis and body are built for intense fireground situations, which makes them ideal for incident command use. These vehicles have years of extreme-condition engineering behind them. When you build a mobile command post you never know what situations it will be called for, and you want to make sure it can perform in any circumstance. That's what Pierce Manufacturing can provide: vehicles designed to handle all situations.

Interior Layout and Equipment

So now that you've decided upon the best chassis for your needs, it's time to customize the interior as well. A mobile command post interior can be challenging because it involves specialized equipment and materials that many people may not be familiar with or deal with on a daily basis. Satellite communications, video monitoring and recording, radio interoperability and climate control systems are extensive systems that can be difficult to fully understand. In addition, electronic technology changes very rapidly, making it difficult to keep up-to-date with new capabilities.

Choose a manufacturer who has the best choices for you—a manufacturer who can provide you with all the options you may need, understands your long-term needs for growth, interoperability and continuous adaptability. In addition, you'll certainly want to look for a manufacturer who has a good reputation and history of building the type of vehicle you are seeking. That company's experience can help you design the optimum layout of your command post.

Depending on the specifications, prices for the interior and equipment can vary greatly, from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands of dollars. Therefore, knowing and understanding your requirements is essential in properly laying out the interior of your mobile command post vehicle.

The most common interior layout features a forward communications area, a mid-area galley and a rear conference area. All areas are fully customizable, and

Possible configurations for the communications area:



there isn't a "one size fits all" approach. Some departments choose a smaller vehicle just for communications, while other departments opt for the larger vehicle with multiple capabilities. The design and scope of your mobile command post is dependent on your needs and shouldn't be seen as a "cookie cutter" process.

Despite the differences in interiors, there are commonalities that carry across the various chassis options. Typically, the communications area accommodates multiple workstations. However, it can also be designed with cabinets, laminate or solid surface countertops, dry-erase boards, printer(s), copier(s), fax machine(s), radio and video equipment, and even slide-out walls for additional interior space. The scope and design is dependent upon how many workstations are required and the department's needs.

When included, the galley area usually is designed with a microwave, coffee maker, refrigerator, water source, sink, and Incinolet[®] toilet, which incinerates waste for easy removal. Not all departments choose the galley area, but when designing your vehicle, you should keep in mind the anticipated use and proximity to other vehicles that may provide the same service. For instance, some departments opt not to choose the toilet area, which increases their storage space. Another option is to contract with a local waste hauler to bring a portable facility to the scene, especially if the event is going to be long term, so as to decrease traffic in and out of the command post.

The rear conference room in the Pierce custom mobile command post is ideal for incident command briefings, interviews, brainstorming or executive meetings. An easily convertible area, it has also been known to improvise as a workspace for the public information officer and as a disaster relief area for victims. This space can be configured to accommodate wrap-around seating, multiple video monitors, a conference table, dry erase boards and various electronic equipment. Like the communications area, the conference area can also be designed with slide-out walls for additional interior space. The use of white board materials for walls is another popular option, allowing unlimited writing space throughout the vehicle. Also, the number and placement of doors can be a great advantage. Some departments choose to have the exterior doors to the vehicle on opposite sides or at the back of the vehicle, to allow for greater flexibility when setting up and manning the command post.

There are many optional features available on mobile command post vehicles, and with the right equipment your vehicle should be equipped and able to respond to absolutely every situation possible in your jurisdiction.



Rear conference area



Air filtration system



Communications and interoperability are the key to any mobile command post.

At Pierce, we work closely with each department to ensure that the best options are chosen for both the department and community, while working within budget guidelines. We often recommend speaking to departments with similar needs who already have a mobile command post. If possible, it's an advantage to visit and inspect existing units to increase the scope of option availability. Listed below are just a few of the many possible options you may consider when specifying your mobile command post.

- Four-door cab to allow for additional personnel or an isolated command center
- Air filtration system
 - Biological/chemical positive pressure filter system
 - Chemical, biological, particle filtration
- HVAC system
- Radio wiring/patch panel
- Telephone system
- Satellite Internet
- Interoperability system
- Security system
- Weather station
- Global positioning system
- Communications rack
- 120/240V control panel
- Up to 20kW stand-alone generators available
- 12V power systems
- Video system
 - High resolution LCD monitors
 - Exterior LCD ultra-bright display monitor
- Exterior video camera
 - 25'-50' pneumatic mast with high resolution, low light color camera and 30X lens
- Communications area video system
- Conference area electronic whiteboard
- Communications network
 - Outlets at each workstation and conference area
 - Network clock system
- Automatic hydraulic leveling system
- Exterior demountable dry erase board
- Exterior removable shelf



Platform	Horsepower	Body Size	Benefits
Contender® body /commercial chassis	Up to 300 hp	18' or 24' length	Rugged construction, budget conscious
Pierce® custom chassis with custom body	330 hp-515 hp	33' maximum length	Rugged construction, virtually unlimited options