



APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 3, 2019.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Caroline County, VA

Program Title: Fire and EMS Mobile Training Lab

Program Category: Criminal Justice & Public Safety

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jason Loftus

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Department: Dept. of Fire - Rescue and Emergency Management

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Alan Partin

Title: Deputy County Administrator

Signature: *Alan Partin*

2019 Virginia Association of Counties Achievement Awards Nomination
Fire and EMS Mobile Training Lab
Caroline County Department of Fire – Rescue and Emergency Management

Executive Summary

Faced with the challenges of delivering quality real world EMS training, the Caroline County Department of Fire – Rescue and Emergency Management designed and built a Mobile Training Lab (MTL). The MTL was created by removing the rear patient compartment from a surplus ambulance and placing it on a trailer. With the support of a generous grant from the Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, staff worked in house to add an innovated audiovisual system to the lab. Finally, a custom vinyl wrap was designed and applied to the unit that promotes volunteerism within the Department.

Excluding the \$1,500 grant, the Department was able to complete this project for \$17,685. These funds were collected from the sale of surplus vehicles/equipment. The result is a dynamic mobile training lab capable of easily traveling around the County in support of both new and continued EMS training. Additionally, the trailer is an effective advertisement tool for our volunteer recruitment program.

Background

The Caroline County Department of Fire - Rescue and Emergency Management is a combination (career and volunteer) public safety agency responsible for fire, EMS, and emergency management services.

The Department covers some 530 square miles providing services from eight different stations. The delivery of quality service requires that emergency responders frequently train to maintain their skills.

Caroline's rural nature prohibits it from having a dedicated Fire and emergency medical services (EMS) training facility. As a result, administrators have to develop creative and cost effective alternative educational delivery methods. This nomination will discuss the Department's creation of our Mobile Training Lab (MTL) and its impact on the delivery of remote training countywide.

Caroline County is pleased to submit a VACO Achievement Award nomination for the creation of its Mobile Training Lab (MTL) and its positive impact on the delivery of emergency medical training and community volunteer recruitment.

Introduction

Like all Fire and Rescue agencies, Caroline County faces the challenges of delivering ongoing training to their career and volunteer emergency responders. This challenge is intensified when coupling the County's larger geographic footprint (>500 sq. miles) and its low population density. Without a dedicated public safety training facility, Fire – Rescue administration began to ponder how they might deliver high quality real world EMS training in a mobile environment. The solution was the development of our Mobile Training Lab. This MTL would allow students to practice in real-world conditions, using actual equipment, all without having to take an operational ambulance out of service.

Innovation / Cost

Caroline's MTL is, by all means, a functional ambulance on a trailer. To begin the process, the Department was donated an old surplus ambulance owned by the Ladysmith Volunteer Rescue Squad. This donation was free to the County.

Step two of our conversion process required removing the patient compartment (or rear box) from the old ambulance and mounting this onto a trailer. The Department worked with a local vendor to move this box onto a trailer while keeping all of the ambulance electrical systems functional (lights, suctions, etc.). This trailer conversion cost \$13,445.

Step three involved the outfitting of technology to enhance education programs. The Department applied for and was awarded a grant from the Rappahannock Electric Cooperative for \$1,500 to outfit the MTL with a video camera and monitor system. Instructors and fellow students can monitor and playback student evolutions in real time. A RV style TV mounting bracket was installed on both sides of the unit to allow for easy temporary mounting of a large TV to display cameras or other video sources.

Cameras may be viewed remotely whenever Wi-Fi access is available. Caroline added HVAC, leveling jacks, and a portable generator. All work was done in-house by members of the Department for a total cost of approximately \$2,500 (\$1,500 grant and \$1,000 local). A local truck stop donated a special cleaning treatment to brighten up the existing unit's diamond plate and chrome finishes. The Department was also able to stock the lab with expired and surplus EMS supplies saving additional funds.

Step four of our project involved the installation of a creative exterior wrap. Rather than plain generic graphics, the Department worked with a graphics vendor in Fredericksburg, VA to develop a unique custom design that would serve to not only mark the MTL but also help promote volunteer recruitment. This would allow the Department to use the MTL at community events, such as the County Fair, to help promote volunteerism. This wrap costs \$3,240.

Conclusion / Impact

In total, the Department invested \$17,685 of local funds in the project. These funds were raised through the sale of surplus retired apparatus / equipment. The result is a dynamic mobile training lab capable of easily traveling around the County in support of both new and continued EMS training. Students are afforded a real-world work environment to perform practical skills. Additionally the trailer is an effective advertisement tool in our recruitment program.

The Department has seen a tremendous benefit thus far when using the MTL in support of new EMT courses. These new students appreciate the ability to conduct skills in a real world environment. The MTL makes a wide variety of tasks possible. Simple skills such as loading a cot into an ambulance to practicing CPR in a confined space are all possible. There is no need to take an operational ambulance out of service to support classes. The Department is very proud of this worthwhile project.

Photos



Figure 1 – Entry Side View of MTL



Figure 2 - Rear of MTL



Figure 3 - Street Side View of MTL



Figure 4 - EMS Skill Practice Inside MTL



Figure 5 - Instructor Critique Outside of MTL