



# GOLDVEIN

## VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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### 2024 Loeb Grant Documentation

## Vehicle Extrication and Stabilization Equipment

The Goldvein Volunteer Fire Department provides a broad scope of emergency and non-emergency services to thousands of community members and visitors to Southern Fauquier County and Western Stafford County including fire suppression, vehicle extrication, hazardous materials mitigation, and advanced life support intervention / patient transportation. With countless miles of secondary roads and highways in our response area, an ever-increasing volume of traffic on those roads, and a rise in distracted/dangerous driving, we routinely respond to serious crashes involving passenger cars, tractor trailers, and everything in between. Each year, these crashes require the use of the equipment we are requesting to be funded in this grant. Another unique challenge we face is being the primary emergency response agency to Sumerduck Dragway located 5 miles from our station. The Sumerduck Dragway is a 1/8 mile drag racing track that hosts over 75 racing events from mid-March until the end of November each year. Racing at this track consists of everything from ATVs up to highly modified alcohol fueled purpose built drag racing cars outfitted with occupant cages and parachutes. Each year we are called to the Sumerduck Dragway for a variety of incidents including significant crashes which require cutting and prying the vehicle apart to access and remove the injured. Recently, we were called to the racetrack for a crash and provided information that the vehicle was on fire and the driver was trapped in the vehicle. Fortunately, the driver was able to be pulled out of the vehicle prior to the arrival of our fire engine as during the time of this incident, our only engine with any equipment able to be used to extricate a trapped occupant was in a repair facility being worked on. The major components outlined in this grant request are battery operated spreaders (jaws of life), cutters, and a combination tool - removing the need to carry and maintain a separate hydraulic pump and hoses. Additionally, these tools are able to be taken and used anywhere since they do not have to be attached to a pump or vehicle (even underwater). These tools will also be able to be moved from truck to truck so that they will always be available to be deployed, even when our main engine is out for repairs. We are fortunate that we house one of only three fire engines in Fauquier County that is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year making it an invaluable resource throughout southern Fauquier County. With your gracious funding of our previous grant request, we were able to outfit this engine with all new hose and nozzles. This engine is also equipped with a limited compliment of extrication equipment that the previous department deemed outdated and inadequate, ultimately handed down to us through the sale and acquisition of the truck itself. While the acquisition of the equipment granted us some improved capability, the need greatly exists to equip and have at the ready a complete, modern, and capable compliment of extrication and stabilization equipment.

This project will allow the department to acquire all the necessary equipment to stabilize and perform rapid and safe removal (extrication) of injured occupants trapped in vehicles or planes involved in crashes. Due to budgetary constraints, our department has never been afforded the opportunity to purchase the equipment outlined in this grant request, the limited equipment we have been fortunate enough to acquire has been handed down from another department that has deemed it necessary to replace.

If partial funding is received, we will proceed with the project to the extent that the grant funding will allow. Due to an increase in operating expenses – fuel, maintenance, increased call volume, etc. we do not have or foresee the ability to raise enough funding to complete this project request.

The Goldvein Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1966 by community members to address the need of fire protection in the Goldvein Community. Only responding to around 10 emergency calls per year and focused mainly on fire suppression in its early years, the department has greatly expanded its capabilities and demand for services. Our current fleet of emergency vehicles includes an engine/tanker carrying 3,000 gallons of water, two fire engines carrying 750 gallons of water each and one of the two equipped with vehicle extrication tools (jaws of life) and advanced life support medications and equipment, a brush truck with a 300 gallon water tank that is capable to reach fires and other emergencies off road and in rugged terrain, a command vehicle operated by the fire chief or shift supervisor, two support vehicles designed to carry personnel and equipment to and from incident scenes, and an advanced life support ambulance provided by the County of Fauquier. In 2022, 3 rotating shifts of 6 personnel were assigned to the Goldvein Station to ensure an adequate number of firefighters and emergency medical technicians were available to respond to emergencies twenty-four hours a day / seven days a week. Due to our recent additions of increased staffing and capabilities, the incidents the Goldvein Station responds to is on pace to reach or exceed 1,000 annually. The Goldvein Volunteer Fire Department has strived to meet the needs of the community it serves through fire safety and prevention, acquiring and maintaining a modern, adequate, and capable fleet of vehicles and equipment, and extensive training.

