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**Grant Application Criteria**

**All Applicants must be qualified agencies located in Hocking County**

**1. Demonstrated Impact of Tourism on Emergency Services**

**Why it matters:** Ensures that funding is going where tourism is significantly affecting service demand.

**How to measure:**

* Percentage increase in call volume during peak tourism months.
* Number of incidents involving non-residents.
* Presence near high-traffic attractions, parks, trails, or seasonal events.

**Scoring tip:** Higher scores for departments with clearly documented seasonal surges or tourism-related emergency trends.

**2. Urgency and Criticality of the Need**

**Why it matters:** Prioritizes projects that address immediate safety gaps or prevent service failure.

**How to measure:**

* Age or condition of current equipment.
* Documented service delays or failures (e.g., mutual aid dependence, ambulance wait times).
* Public safety risks (e.g., undercoverage of trailheads or river access).

**Scoring tip:** High points for requests addressing life-saving equipment or critical training deficits.

**3. Clarity and Feasibility of the Proposed Solution**

**Why it matters:** A strong idea must be clearly planned and realistically achievable.

**How to measure:**

* Detailed project description with goals, timeline, and implementation plan.
* Cost estimates that are specific, itemized, and justified.
* Evidence that the applicant can execute the project (e.g., prior success or partnership).

**Scoring tip:** High marks for complete, well-thought-out applications with realistic expectations.

**4. Sustainability and Long-Term Benefit**

**Why it matters:** Grants should be investments, not band-aids.

**How to measure:**

* Will the equipment or training have ongoing value beyond this year’s peak season?
* Are there plans for upkeep, staff certification, or future funding sources?
* Does the project align with a long-term strategy for service expansion or resilience?

**Scoring tip:** Bonus points for projects that demonstrate lasting community or inter-agency benefit.

**5. Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Justification**

**Why it matters:** Stewardship of public or tourism-generated funds is essential.

**How to measure:**

* Are costs reasonable for the requested equipment or service?
* Are there in-kind matches, local funding contributions, or cooperative purchasing efforts?
* Does the applicant seek only what is necessary?

**Scoring tip:** Stronger proposals clearly explain how the requested funds will stretch the furthest.

**Optional Secondary Criteria (for tie-breakers or bonus points)**

* Regional collaboration or mutual aid enhancement.
* Previous grant performance or compliance.
* Community outreach or education component.
* Readiness to deploy (shovel-ready projects).