

## **TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC. PRE-APPLICATION FORM**

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. (“Triumph Gulf Coast”) has created a pre-application process to provide initial consideration of eligibility for potential ideas of projects or programs that may seek an award of funding. Applicants are required to participate in the pre-application process. Notwithstanding the response from Triumph Gulf Coast on the pre-application form, an Applicant may still elect to submit an Application.

### **APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Name of

Individual/Entity/Organization:

Liberty Fire District, Inc. (LFD)

Proposal Title:

Liberty Volunteer Fire District –  
Aerial Ladder Apparatus for North  
Walton County

LFD Cost Share: 20%

\$180,000.00

Amount of Triumph Funds

Requested: \$720,000.00

Total Estimated Project Cost:

\$900,000.00

Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization:

Non-Profit Government Organization – Special Independent Fire District

Contact Information

Primary

Contact: Tony

Roy

Title:

Assistant

Chief/ District

Commissioner

Mailing Address: 2385 North Hwy 331

City: DeFuniak Springs

State: FL

Zip Code: 32433

Telephone

Number:

850/598-7355

Email Address:

tony.roy@gsa.go

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Website: N/A

Names of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program:

Walton County Local Triumph Committee, Walton County Vocational Technical Center

**REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In a maximum of two (2) pages, please describe the proposed project or program and anticipated outcomes including (i) the amount of funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast; (ii) the amount and identity of other sources of funds for the proposed project or program; (iii) the location of the project or program; (iv) summary description of the proposed program, including how the program will be transformational and promote economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties, and (v) a summary timeline for the proposed project or program.

**\*\*\*SEE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ATTACHED\*\*\***

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

This pre-application process will **not** result in an award of funding by Triumph Gulf Coast. Rather, this process is designed to facilitate submission of ideas for potential projects or programs before the Applicant expends time and/or resources to complete a full Application. All Applicants for funding are required to complete an Application, which will be reviewed and then considered for award at the discretion of Triumph Gulf Coast Board.

**Please Select the Proposal’s Eligibility Category(s)**

Pursuant to Section 288.8017, Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. was created to make awards from available funds to projects or programs that meet the priorities for economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties. The disproportionately affected counties are: Bay County, Escambia County, Franklin County, Gulf County, Okaloosa County, Santa Rosa County, Walton County, or Wakulla County. *See*, Section 288.08012.

1. From the choices below, please check the box that describes the purpose of the proposed project or program (check all that apply):

- Ad valorem tax rate reduction within disproportionately affected counties;
- ✓ Local match requirements of s. 288.0655 for projects in the disproportionately affected counties;
- ✓ Public infrastructure projects for construction, expansion, or maintenance which are shown to enhance economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties;
- ✓ Grants to local governments in the disproportionately affected counties to establish and maintain equipment and trained personnel for local

action plans of response to respond to disasters, such as plans created for the Coastal Impacts Assistance Program;

- Grants to support programs that prepare students for future occupations and careers at K-20 institutions that have campuses in the disproportionately affected counties. Eligible programs include those that increase students' technology skills and knowledge; encourage industry certifications; provide rigorous, alternative pathways for students to meet high school graduation requirements; strengthen career readiness initiatives; fund high-demand programs of emphasis at the bachelor's and master's level designated by the Board of Governors; and, similar to or the same as talent retention programs created by the Chancellor of the State University System and the Commission of Education, encourage students with interest or aptitude for science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medical disciplines to pursue postsecondary education at a state university or a Florida College System institution within the disproportionately affected counties;
- ✓ Grants to support programs that provide participants in the disproportionately affected counties with transferable, sustainable workforce skills that are not confined to a single employer; and
- ✓ Grants to the tourism entity created under s. 288.1226 for the purpose of advertising and promoting tourism and Fresh From Florida, and grants to promote workforce and infrastructure, on behalf of all of the disproportionately affected counties.

**Please Select the Priorities this Proposal's Outcomes will Achieve**

1. Please check the box if the proposed project or program will meet any of the following priorities (check all that apply):

✓ Generate maximum estimated economic benefits, based on tools and models not generally employed by economic input-output analyses, including cost-benefit, return-on-investment, or dynamic scoring techniques to determine how the long- term economic growth potential of the disproportionately affected counties may be enhanced by the investment.

✓ Increase household income in the disproportionately affected counties above national average household income.

Leverage or further enhance key regional assets, including educational institutions, research facilities, and military bases.

✓ Partner with local governments to provide funds, infrastructure, land, or other assistance for the project.

✓ Benefit the environment, in addition to the economy.

✓ Provide outcome measures.

Partner with K-20 educational institutions or school districts located within the disproportionately affected counties as of January 1, 2017.

✓ Are recommended by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the project or program will be located.

Partner with convention and visitor bureaus, tourist development councils, or chambers of commerce located within the disproportionately affected counties.

## **TRIUMPH OF THE GULF COAST EXECUTIVE SUMMARY LIBERTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DISTRICT – AERIAL LADDER APPARATUS FOR NORTH WALTON COUNTY PROJECT**

Liberty Fire District, Inc. (LFD) is a Non-Profit, Special Independent Fire District created by the State of Florida Legislature. LFD covers 89 Square Miles of Central and Northern Walton County and provides Fire and Rescue Operations for it's citizens and visitors. LFD averages over 700 Emergency Calls each year. It is predominantly a rural, residential, low-income, area with some industrial, commercial areas and provides support to critical infrastructure of this Region. Critical Infrastructure includes 14 miles of US Hwy 331, 8.5 of US Hwy 90, 3 miles of Interstate 10, high power electric transmission lines, dual natural gas transmission lines, county maintenance facilities, industrial facilities, daycare and community churches, and active CSX Rail-lines.

### **Project needs assessment:**

LFD and North Walton County is in dire need for an Aerial Ladder Apparatus for North Walton, FL. Within our District, we have 77 structures that are two stories or above. If you include areas within our Automatic Mutual Aid area of North Walton, we collectively have over 448 two story, or above structures. In addition, Apartments, Schools, Churches, Big-Box Stores, Industrial Areas, Hotels, Larger Maintenance Facilities, National Registry of Historic Homes (over 100 and all over 100 years old!), a Hospital and Nursing Home Facilities, etc.... The need for an elevated platform has existed in North Walton County for well over 20 years. As it currently stands, fire crews must utilize manual extension ladders, up to 24 ft. in order to fight multi-story structures. This is a dangerous and ineffective firefighting technique. The closest elevated platform would come from the City of Crestview, Fort Walton Beach, and South Walton Fire District. Crestview Fire, if available, would have a 45 minute response time, all others over 1 to 1 ½ hours. This is unacceptable in order to save a home, life, or business. North Walton County needs a Ladder Apparatus!

### **Why Liberty Fire?**

- (1) Our LFD South Station is Centrally Located in North Walton County (3278 West Hwy 90).
- (2) LFD South Station was built to withstand 150 MPH winds in the event of severe weather for protection of this high value resource.
- (3) The station was built with an 80 foot drive-thru bay and 14' x 16' bay doors to accommodate this large apparatus. No other station in North Walton could house this equipment without a major renovation investment.
- (4) LFD boasts 32 Active Volunteer Firefighters, the largest volunteer fire agency in all of Walton County.
- (5) LFD already has 5" Large Diameter Hydrant Hose with Stroz connections (LDH). Most departments do not have this LDH in their current inventory. A 5" LDH effectively moves the location of the closure Hydrant to the address of the fire!
- (6) LFD's large Volunteer base, allows us to respond this needed apparatus to the entire Region on a Mutual Aid basis.
- (7) LFD has a very active training component, would require manufacturer training, daily inspections, training certifications, and proficiency training of all members and mutual aid partners.

(8) LFD would be responsible to complete annual certification and inspections on the ladder and pumps and maintain sufficient insurance on the apparatus.

We currently operate on just over \$160K per year and operate two fire stations (Central and South). LFD operates 14 pieces of apparatus and has a 30 member (FTE) volunteer firefighting and 1<sup>st</sup> Responder force (and growing)! Over 70% of our Nations Firefighters are Volunteers!

LFD is requesting assistance in obtaining a small NFPA Compliant 1901 ladder truck with a minimum of 75 ft elevated ladder (straight stick) and remotely controlled master stream aerial apparatus for North Walton County. Estimated Total Acquisition cost: \$900,000. LFD projected Cost Share of 20% would be \$180,000. A request from Triumph of the Gulf Coast is: \$720,000.

### **Project Benefits:**

- Provides protection to all visitors (tourist) traveling the US Hwy 331 corridor to the Beaches of NW FL Panhandle;
- Provides direct fire protection to the homes and businesses and a financial reduction in homeowner/business insurance rates (Lowers ISO Ratings) in a Five Mile radius;
- Assists the entire Region and lowers ISO Ratings and Insurance rates for Florida Residents and Commercial and Government Structures in this area/Region;
- Enhances fire suppression capability and protects the Environment (reduces hazards, such as burning harmful combustibles and fuel leakage containment);
- Enhances Members and Certifications of Professional Volunteer 1<sup>st</sup> Responders
- Enhances New Membership and New Florida FF1 State Certified Firefighter Certifications!
- Enhances protection to tourists visiting Walton County Beaches and adds a new capability to all of North Walton County;
- Enhances Firefighter Safety by using technology for Fire Suppression; Evacuation/Tornado Shelter to this area;
- By protecting Large Commercial Complexes, increases jobs in our local Commercial Industries.

### **Our Plan:**

It is our intent to purchase a new apparatus for the South (Centrally located) Fire Station. Apparatus includes a NFPA 1901 Compliant, 500 GL booster tank, Freightliner chassis (Walton County has a new local Freightliner Dealer/Mechanics) and outfit this truck with necessary hose, nozzles and appliances. Also, a mandatory series of training events will be included by the Apparatus Manufacturer to include a Train-the-Trainer Class and Certifications for LFD and Mutual Aid personnel operating this ladder. This equipment allows our New Volunteer Firefighters (32 FTEs) to complete Certification Training using new NFPA 1901 Compliant apparatus. It is also necessary for immediate protection of the local community. Purchasing new equipment will provide an additional 12 new FTEs/jobs.

Please assist Liberty Volunteer Fire District in protecting our community for the next 20 Years! Coupled with an aggressive training/certification program, the Aerial Ladder for North Walton Project will ensure our volunteer firefighters go home safely after each and every call to action within our community and our entire Region!