



Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria

assisting CFA Brigades and Groups with a timely application for VESEP funding.

Application Help Pack – 2025





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Application Help Pack 2025/26

Prepared by Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria to assist CFA Brigades and Groups with a timely application for VESEP funding.

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Introduction

The Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) is an ongoing annual program funded by the Victorian Government, which provides equipment grants up to a maximum of \$250,000 ex GST.

The program is in its 25th year and first started as the CSESP Program (Community Safety Emergency Support Program in 2000 and was designed in close consultation with VFBV and volunteers. The Program was intended to be a grant scheme for volunteers – designed by volunteers, with minimal administration from volunteers.

The Grant allows for \$2 in grant money for every \$1 of local contribution for sustainability and local buy-in, local driven priorities with annual strategic state initiatives, robust district/region and state volunteers peer review and a quick and timely approval and notifications process to the successful brigades and groups.

Key to its success is locally driven priority setting, endorsement by District Planning Committee's, operational support and endorsement by CFA Regional Management and a State-wide Steering Committee that reports directly to Government and the CFA Chief Officer and includes VFBV and volunteer representatives who work together to monitor the program and ensure the programs integrity and transparency.

Since its inception, the program has completed more than 2,807 projects totalling more than \$170 million dollars.

The program is an investment in maintaining and building volunteer capability and is designed to ease the pressures of having to fundraise for operational equipment, vehicles, specialist equipment and much needed improvements to amenities.

VFBV encourages all CFA Brigades, Groups, District Councils and Championship Committees to make use of this **VFBV Application Help Pack** to assist them in their applications.

This pack offers practical suggestions and complements CFA's Guidelines and the 2025 application forms. Its intent was to gather the most important information available and put it all in one place. If Brigades or Groups would like a printed copy, please call the VFBV Office on 03 9886 1141 and VFBV would be happy to post you one.

Members can also contact their local VFBV State Councillors, District Council Executives or VFBV Support Officers for any additional information or assistance with their applications.

We wish you well with your application!

CFA Information and forms are located at: https://www.members.cfa.vic.gov.au/programs/vesep

The side links displayed at the right of the CFA's landing page will give you access to information on Specialist Appliances, Tanker Information and Equipment Information.





Application Details 2025

Conditions of VESEP 2023/24 Grants

- You may apply for only ONE project in the 2025 round
- All Funding applications to be endorsed and prioritised by the respective DPC and be consistent with the District/Regional Infrastructure Plans.
- Any additions to the brigade owned fleet require approval of the local ACFO, Regional DCO and the Chief Officer.
- CFA will maintain approved tankers and specialist appliances to level one maintenance.
- Projects commenced on or before Ministerial approval will not be eligible for VESEP funding.
- It is the responsibility of the Brigade/Group to replace assets acquired.

WHAT IS NOT FUNDED?

Core CFA budget requirements

Ongoing expenditure such as maintenance

Projects currently in progress

Project overspends

Where do I find information regarding what is funded under VESEP 2025/26?

Refer to CFA website - Members Online > Home > Programs > Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) and click to download:

- VESEP CFA Program Guidelines for 2025 funding round. See page 3 for priority categories
- VESEP CFA Application Form Part A: Vehicles and Operational Equipment Application
- VESEP CFA Application Form Part B: Volunteer Amenities and Minor Works Application
- VESEP Approved Vehicle Specification and Costs

Alternatively, documents can be found on VFBV website by following VESEP article on web home page.

Endorsed Projects: must be operationally justified

If a brigade is purchasing an additional vehicle to the fleet the application will need to be endorsed by your local ACFO and DCO.

The Chief
Officer will
have the final
approval over
all additions to
the fleet

VESEP Ultra Light Tanker (ULT) Toyota Landcruiser

\$2 VESEP to \$1 brigade contribution cab chassis body funded by grant

Brigade Contribution \$ 24,167 Grant Contribution \$145,833 TOTAL project cost \$170,000



VESEP Light Tanker Crew Cab

\$2 VESEP to \$1 brigade contribution cab chassis body funded by grant

Brigade Contribution \$ 40,000 Grant Contribution \$310,000 TOTAL project cost \$350,000







Application Details 2025

PLEASE NOTE: Additions to the fleet are given a low priority.

If a brigade is purchasing an additional vehicle to the fleet the application will need to be endorsed by your local ACFO and DCO.

The Chief
Officer will
have the final
approval over
all additions to
the fleet.

VESEP Medium Tanker

Addition to the fleet

\$2 VESEP to \$1 brigade contribution for the total vehicle cost.

Brigade Contribution \$195,000 Grant Contribution \$315,000 TOTAL project cost \$510,000



VESEP Medium Tanker

Replacement

\$2 VESEP to \$1 brigade contribution towards cab chassis cost.

Brigade Contribution \$ 65,000 Grant Contribution \$445,000 TOTAL project cost \$510,000



VESEP Rehabilitation Unit Isuzu NNR 45-150

\$2 VESEP to \$1 brigade contribution Indicative price April 2025(ex GST)

Brigade Contribution \$ 51,667 Grant Contribution \$ 103,333 TOTAL project cost \$155,000



The appliance is a Multi-Purpose Vehicle. The rear of the appliance can be configured to suit a brigades specific needs.

Examples;

Remote Area
Lighting,
Staging Area
Equipment,
Training
Equipment,
Thermal Imaging
Equipment.

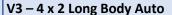
VESEP Multi-Purpose Vehicles

V1 - 4 x 4 short body Manual

Brigade Contribution \$ 94,400
 Grant Contribution \$188,600
 TOTAL project cost \$285,000

V2 – 4 x 2 Short Body Manual

Brigade Contribution \$ 90,000
 Grant Contribution \$180,000
 TOTAL project cost \$270,000



Brigade Contribution \$ 90,000
 Grant Contribution \$180,000
 TOTAL project cost \$270,000

Indicative Costs as at April 2025 (excludes GST)
Cost escalation to point of build in 2025/26 up to 10% increase











Application Details 2025

Field Command Vehicles (standard build) \$2 VESEP to \$1 brigade contribution for the total vehicle cost.

XL Cab Chassis

Indicative Cost (ex GST)

Brigade Contribution \$31,500
 Grant Contribution \$63,000
 TOTAL project cost \$94,500

NB. FCV Vehicles under 8 years of age at the time of changeover will not be considered for replacement.



Field Command Vehicles (standard build) \$2 VESEP to \$1 brigade contribution for the total vehicle cost.

XLT Cab Chassis

Indicative Cost (ex GST)

Brigade Contribution \$33,500
 Grant Contribution \$72,000
 TOTAL project cost \$106,500

NB. FCV Vehicles under 8 years of age at the time of changeover will not be considered for replacement.



Volunteer Amenities Improvements

\$2 VESEP to \$1 brigade contribution To maximum VESEP contribution of \$5,000 Kitchen Refurbishments, Fridge, Air conditioner, Hot Water Services, Carpet, Furniture, Tables & Chairs

Brigade Contribution \$1,667
 Grant Contribution \$3,333
 TOTAL project cost \$5,000

Needs to be non-structural, not requiring a building permit.

Brigade Minor Works

\$2 VESEP to \$1 brigade contribution
Total Project value to be less than \$250,000
Enhance CFA Member amenities and safety.
Motorization of Motor Room Doors, Installation of garage/Shed, Station refurbishment, PPC Storage.

Brigade Contribution \$ 83,000
 Grant Contribution \$ 166,667
 TOTAL project cost \$ 250,000

All applications must be registered with the VESEP Land & Buildings Project Manager via email VESEPProject@cfa.vic.gov.au by 14th July.

Contact Matthew Mallett with any questions on m.mallett@cfa.vic.gov.au or 0408 055 163

Tanker Costs – VESEP 2025/26

Funding Source	Ultra Light	Light Tanker	Med Tanker	Med Tanker
	Tanker	Crew Cab	Replacement	Addition
Brigade	\$24,167	\$40,000	\$65,000	\$195,000
Grant	\$145,833	\$310,000	\$445,000	\$315,000
Contribution				
Total	\$170,000	\$350,000	\$510,000	\$510,000

Pricing Indicative @ April 2025, cost escalation to point of build in 2025 allow up to 10% increase.

Options available on some appliances at Brigade Cost.





Application Ideas from Previous Successful Grants

If you need inspiration the list below may assist you in determining what would most help your Brigade, Group, District Council or Championship Committee.

Kitchen **Ultra Light FCV Data Projector** Trailer & **Upgrade Tanker** Generator Lighting Thermal **Motorized Equipment** Turnout **Imaging** Extension **Security Gates** to Motor Camera Room Room **Station Extension** Car fridge Remote Carpark **Area Lighting** With VESEP grants, the key to **Asphalting** success is preparing your **Hot Water** application and gaining Service **Alarm System** support early. Installation **Chairs &** Mobile **Trestle Tables Hose Testing** Trailer Conditioner **Meeting room** and Insulation **Bats Upgrade** QUIPMEN You have 8 weeks from grant Lawnmower **BA Support** announcement to due date 28th July, 2025 **Pressure** Washer Chainsaw 2.4c Chaps Notebook Water Medium & Tripod Tank and **Tanker** TV/DVD and **Turnout** Pump Gear **Upgrade Noticeboard Protek** Racks **Comms Room** Big Concrete Nozzle Meeting and Office Fill **Apron Branches** Room **Roller Door Furniture** External Station Lighting **Automation** Rehabilitation Water Unit **Filter** Laptop Workshop Software **Storage**

Data Projector

Rescue

Tools

Printer





Countdown Calendar – Tick your way to success!

	1					
3 rd June, □		 Government announces 2025 VESEP program with the details of this current year's 				
		priorities and categories in which funding will be made available.				
2025		■ CFA Applications OPEN				
Are you		■ Brigade/Group updates/prepares your financial plan or considers a Special Access Grant				
		 current bank account/s balance/s 				
		 5-year-plan for brigade expenditure – what are those funds planned outcome? 				
		 5-year-plan for boosting brigade funds 				
well		 Brigade/Group discusses possible category it wishes to apply for 				
under		 Brigade/Group decides on the item it deems will significantly improve your operational 				
way?		readiness or member facilities.				
		Brigade/Group obtains preliminary quotes				
		 Required endorsement from District AFCO & DCO if applying for additions to fleet 				
		COMMUNICATE YOUR PLANS				
		Brigade/Group continues discussion of plans with your Group and Catchment Officers				
		Contacts the VESEP Minor Works Project Manager if applying for this category				
		Seeks expert advice from the CFA Regional Asset Maintenance Manager				
		Continues the discussion of the idea with your neighbouring Brigades				
		 Ensures that Brigades/Group application supports the Group Resource plan 				
		Singular, Group discusses plans with eatenment officers, communication				
		■ Brigades/Group seeks endorsement by Catchment Officer/ Commanders that your				
		application supports the District Resource Plan				
June		Brigade/Group discuss plans with CFA Project Coordinator, Lisa Elliott, to ensure you are				
and July		on the right track and to raise your profile ensuring than Lisa is aware of your application.				
		Lisa's contact details are 9262 8825 or lisa.elliott@cfa.vic.gov.au				
		Brigade/Group prepares supporting documents describing:				
		 purpose and how it will assist with your operational readiness 				
	Ш	 how it will assist your brigade/group amenities in support of your infrastructure needs 				
		 how it will assist your neighbouring Brigades and stating their level of support 				
		how it will assist your local and wider community.				
		 Brigade/Group completes draft copy of CFA Application Forms A/B/Special Access 				
		 Completes Addition to the Fire Fighting Appliance Fleet Operational Justification if required 				
		FINE TUNE YOUR APPLICATION				
14 th		 If applying for a grant for Minor Works, applications must be pre-registered with the 				
July,		VESEP Minor Works Project Manager, Land and Building Services via email				
2025		<u>VESEPProject@cfa.vic.gov.au</u>				
28 th		■ Brigade/Group confirms quotes				
_		■ Brigade/Group discusses/confirms modifications with Group/Catchment Officer and				
July, 2025	Ш	District ACFO so all are aware of what is coming				
2025		 Closing date for applications to be forwarded to District ACFO 				
		PROCESSING VESEP APPLICATIONS				
		DPCs meet to prioritise District's applications - that's why you talked about it with Group!				
29 th July to		 Regional Deputy Chief Officers provide comments and send to CFA Project Coordinator 				
11 th Aug		 CFA VESEP Steering Committee members approve projects. Decisions endorsed by Chief 				
2025		Officer				
		■ EMV forwards agencies' recommendations to Minister for Emergency Services				
December		 Anticipated Ministerial announcement after notifying local Members of Parliament. 				
2025		 Successful Brigades receive written funding offer. Unsuccessful brigades advised. 				
		1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0				





Sample Business Plan

Providing a simple A4 document allows transparency and indicates how the brigade funds are managed and targeted towards new projects. It protects funds raised to replace brigade items.

NB: Each CFA District may have their own local pro-forma. Please check with your Regional Finance & Administration Manager to ask for a copy of their Business Plan.

Brigade/Group Name	:	Brigade No:	Date:	
District:		Region:		
Bank account name 8		1.		
Account balance	as per current date:	\$		
	as per 30/06/2024:	\$		
	difference		\$	
ast three year's final	ncial summary			
,	Receipts	Expenses	Profit or Loss	
2023 – 2024	\$	\$	\$	
2022 – 2023	\$	\$	\$	
2021 – 2022	\$	<u> </u>	\$	
2021 2022	ΥΥ	ΥΥ	Υ	
Anticipated cost of pr	oject/s	ė		
i.	oject/s	\$		
l. 2.	oject/s	\$		
i.	oject/s			
l. 2.		\$		
 3. Gundraising methods		\$	nt; operate parking for	
undraising methods	planned	\$ \$ d raffles x 3, VESEP gran		
undraising methods	planned tions from community; woo	\$ \$ d raffles x 3, VESEP gran		
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undraising methods	planned tions from community; woo	\$ \$ d raffles x 3, VESEP gran		
undraising methods e.g. seek targeted dona narket; provide BBQ lun	planned tions from community; woo	\$ \$ d raffles x 3, VESEP gran		
undraising methods	planned tions from community; woo	\$ \$ d raffles x 3, VESEP gran		
indraising methods e.g. seek targeted dona narket; provide BBQ lur	planned tions from community; woo	\$ d raffles x 3, VESEP granal market/rodeo; hold a	rock 'n roll dance.	





Special Access Grant Application Guidelines

Not enough money to contribute to a VESEP application but your Brigade or Group really needs the VESEP funding to contribute towards the total cost of a critical item of equipment or station improvement?

Need **financial assistance** with a VESEP application?

NO WORRIES!

Recognising that many Brigades and Groups are unable to raise the necessary contribution for a VESEP project, the CFA VESEP Steering Committee has come to your assistance. They have made allowance for a Special Access Grant.

In other words, Brigades or Groups not flushed with funds can nominate how much they can contribute, if anything at all, towards the project, and request a special access grant to help with the remainder of the Brigade or Group contribution.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

You can receive financial assistance towards your project item if you meet the **Special Access Criteria** detailed on the Special Access Grant Application form:

- Talk to your District Catchment Officer / Assistant Chief Fire Officer about your situation and your plans to seek their justification of your special access application.
- Describe and document why you are unable to make the full brigade contribution.
- List any purchases over \$1,000 you made over the last three years.
- Detail what fundraising activities you have been involved in over the last three years.
- Provide a copy of Brigade or Group Audit Financial Reports over the last three years.
- Obtain the endorsement of your Assistant Chief Fire Officer and Regional Deputy Chief Officer.

Contact your District Catchment Officer/Assistant Chief Fire Officer if you want to progress a **VESEP Special Access Application**

CFA provided a copy with the VESEP mail-out to your Brigade / Group

All application forms are available for download from the VFBV

website www.vfbv.com.au





Handy links to help with your application

Log onto MEMBERS ONLINE then start here...

https://www.members.cfa.vic.gov.au/programs/vesep

CFA: Members Online / Brigades/Operational / Brigades / Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment
Program (VESEP) / Current VESEP Details

...then, to obtain appropriate document with details of item you are seeking, from the panel on the right select:

EQUIPMENT INFORMATION

Search this webpage if you are looking for:

Amenities and Minor Works

- VESEP Minor Works
- VESEP Volunteer Amenities
- VESEP Generator

Fire & Incident Management

• VESEP Field Hygiene Unit

Firefighting Equipment

- VESEP Big Fill Trailer Single
- VESEP Big Fill Trailer Tandem
- VESEP General Purpose Trailer
- VESEP PPC Chainsaw Operations
- VESEP Hose Testing Trailer
- VESEP Thermal Imaging Camera

TANKER INFORMATION

Search this webpage if you are looking for:

Light Tanker

- VESEP Light Tanker Crew Cab
- VESEP Light Tanker Crew Cab Detailed Specifications.

Medium Tanker

- VESEP Medium Tanker
- VESEP Medium Tanker Specification

Tanker Costs

VESEP 2024/25 Tanker Costs

Ultra Light Tanker

- VESEP Ultra Light Tanker
- VESEP Ultra Light Tanker Detailed Specification

SPECIALIST APPLIANCES

Search this webpage if you are looking for:

BA Support Unit

VESEP BA Support Vehicle

Big Fill

- VESEP Big Fill
- VESEP Big Fill Specification

Field Command Vehicles

 VESEP Field Command Vehicle CFA Standard Build

Multi-Purpose Vehicles

VESEP Multi-Purpose Vehicle

Rehabilitation Vehicles

- VESEP Rehabilitation Unit
- VESEP Rehabilitation Unit Detailed Specification

CURRENT DETAILS

Search this webpage if you are looking for:

- VESEP Chief Officers Opening Letter
- VESEP 2023/24 Program Guidelines
- VESEP Application Form Amenities & Minor Works
- VESEP Application Form Operational Equipment and Vehicles
- VESEP Brochure
- VESEP Media Release

GENERAL INFORMATION

Search this webpage if you are looking for:

- VESEP Addition to the Fire Fighting Appliance Fleet
- VESEP Brigade Special Access
 Form
- VESEP DPC Special Access Grant Application Form

https://www.members.cfa.vic.gov.au/programs/vesep





VESEP Application Supporting Documents

Brigade letter on Brigade letterhead to accompany your application to District Headquarters
regarding your application for your project item.

Sample contents of letter:

With our application is the supporting documentation required.

In addition we submit a few other details:

- Financial situation, statement, business plan, Special Access grant application.
- Support from neighbouring Brigades and Groups.
- Support from Catchment Officer

Yours Sincerely

- **2. Completed VESEP 2025 Application form A or B** (2 page available in Word format) and if necessary, completed *Addition to the Fire Fighting Appliance Fleet Operational Justification* form. Special Access grant form if applying for special access grant.
- 3. Quotation copy of quote from supplier indicating all inclusions, but excluding GST
- 4. Copy of most recent Bank Statements
- **5. Copy of Brigade Financial Plan** indicating where the brigade monies are being directed and if necessary, include your *Special Access grant* application.
- 6. Supporting Documents you provide re your Brigade/Group.

Provide a few details/or a statement for each point

- Name of Brigade/Group and item sought.
- A few details about the Brigade
 - Group
 - Municipal Council
 - Vegetation types
 - Fire risks
 - Traffic if congestion is an issue
 - Victorian Risk Register rating if applicable
- How the equipment, vehicle, or project would be helpful in light of all this information.

Brigade Information – provide a few details for each point

- How will your brigade consistently crew and operate vehicles and/or equipment?
- Will the vehicle be housed in the fire station?
- Does the vehicle meet the Regional Strategic Resourcing Plan?
- Brigade Turnouts per year?
- Time distance from neighbouring Brigade

Selection Criteria – provide a few details for each point (see CFA guidelines page 4)

- Needs assessment
- Risk assessment
- Ability to crew and operate further details.
- Benefit to community/catchment.
- Capacity to fund
- Core responsibility factors
- Enhance Operational Readiness





Case Studies

The Case Studies are provided by volunteer members to provide inspiration and support

- in each of the five VESEP Categories
- by providing recommended tips and handy hints.
- what the Brigade or Group thought made their application successful

The Case Studies can be found on the VFBV website (https://tinyurl.com/vesep-casestudy)

VFBV VESEP Support Contact Details

VFBV Application Help Pack Download at www.vfbv.com.au/vesep.php

A paper copy is available on request. Call VFBV Office 03 9886 1141

Email Support vesep@vfbv.com.au

VFBV Support Officer Support

North East Region	Carly Ficheroux	0428 751 652
North West Region	Max Blackmore	0409 119 477
South East Region	Colin Booth	0456 554 593
South West Region	Michelle Taylor	0419 504 111
West Region	Jason Willis	0409 109 447

CFA VESEP Support Contact Details

Members Online / Brigades/Operational / Brigades / Volunteer

Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) / Current VESEP Details

Members Online https://www.members.cfa.vic.gov.au/programs/vesep

Lisa Elliott
Acting VESEP Project Coordinator

Ph: 03 9262 8825
0408 817 918

lisa.elliott@cfa.vic.gov.au

VESEP Minor Works Acting Project m.mallett@cfa.vic.gov.au

Manager <u>m.maiett@cra.vic.gov.ac</u>

Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO)

Contact your District Office





Attachment & Appendix Contents

In addition to this Application Help Pack, VFBV have put together some additional downloads available from www.vfbv.com.au/vesep.php

Attachment 1

Special Access Grant Application Forms

Attachment 2

2025 CFA Program Guidelines

Attachment 3

CFA Application Forms

Appendix

CFA Information Sheets