

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET



Trustee Meeting Date:	Agenda Item Type:
September 22, 2026	Business Item
Submitted By:	
Colonel Brian Rebholz, Chief of Police	

Motion:
Authorize Township Administrator to accept Norfolk Southern Safety First Community Grant

Background:
The Norfolk Southern Corporation offers a Safety First Grant Program to support first responders throughout its 22 state railroad network. Norfolk Southern has selected the West Chester Police Department as a recipient of a 2026 Safety First grant. Norfolk Southern awarded a grant of \$12,000 to the police department to upgrade the interior of the police department's command vehicle to incorporate access to more of our technology. Current bench seating areas will be converted to four workstations with monitors and computers to observe UAV footage, monitor cameras from SWAT equipment, as well as monitor news and weather feeds. This will be a one-time grant for fiscal year 2026. Thank you for your consideration.

Finance	Budgeted Item:	N/A;		
	CIP #:			
	TIF Info:			
	Purchase Req. #:		Total Encumbrance:	\$.00

SAFETY FIRST

GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES



Effective: January 2026

The Safety First Grant Program is designed to promote overall safety in the communities across Norfolk Southern's 22-state network. This program is intended to support organizations that directly provide safety services or operate programs that promote safe behavior. Grants are awarded for specific projects and programs only, not for general operating support.

To be eligible, an organization must meet the below criteria:

- Qualifies as a tax-exempt nonprofit organization based off one of the following charitable criteria:
 - A public 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as listed in the IRS Master File
 - A state, county or municipal government entity and seeks funding to serve the needs of the community at large.
- Operate and be located within NS network (Note: Organizations closest to our track will receive priority during review. Organizations should generally be within 30 miles of our main line).
- Aligns with Norfolk Southern's [Corporate Giving Safety Focus Area](#)

Applications must include the following:

- A valid Federal W9 Form (rev. March 2024)
- A valid 501(c)(3) determination letter from the IRS or letter demonstrating tax exemption status as a state, county, or municipal government entity
- A valid contact email address & phone number for questions regarding grant
- If applying as a 501(c)(3):
 - Short overview of the organization (major achievements, recent accomplishments, impact, and major donors)
 - Board of Directors listing
 - Budget for program or proposed project
 - Full year operating budget

Applications will not be accepted from:

- Organizations not in the NS territory
- Organizations requesting general operating support (i.e., funding requests for salaries, overhead, rent or utility expenses)
- Organizations requesting funding for projects that involve Norfolk Southern property (including leased property)
- Organizations that do not have a 501(c)(3) public charity status or are not tax-exempt as a government entity
- Organizations that have a written policy or a history of discrimination against individuals because of their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or veteran status
- Individuals or organizations established to help individuals
- Religious affiliated organizations that do not support the community at large or discriminate based on religion type
- Fraternal organizations
- Political or lobbying organizations
- Fundraising events, telethons, races, or benefits
- Amateur, civic, or professional sports or athletic organizations, clubs, or activities
- Organizations whose programs have an international and/or national scope
- Civic leagues or Chambers of Commerce
- Referral or consulting agencies and organizations