



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

RURAL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FIRE TRUCK GRANTS

The Texas A&M Forest Service is pleased to begin accepting applications for additional fire truck grants in the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program (also known as RVFDAP or the HB 2604 program). Fire departments that have previously received a grant for a fire truck or truck chassis are now eligible to apply for a second truck or truck chassis.

Since the Rural VFD Assistance Program began operation in 2002, TFS has limited fire departments to a single vehicle grant per department until all applying fire departments have received a first vehicle. While there are still active first truck requests awaiting funding, the agency is now accepting second truck applications as follows:

- Program priorities for the current fiscal year will continue to focus on firefighter training and safety (protective equipment/clothing) with limited truck grant awards.
- Applicants that have not received a grant for a fire truck under this program will be given first priority. However, the grant application must be received before September 1, 2013 in order to qualify for this special priority.
- Subject to available funds, grant approvals for second fire trucks are not expected to begin prior to September of 2013.
- Fire departments who have submitted grant applications for second vehicles prior to November 1, 2012 will need to reapply to have an active second vehicle application.

To date, the program has awarded grants for 1,446 vehicles (large brush trucks, small brush trucks, tankers and chassis), funding most of the first vehicle requests on file. However many of the earliest trucks awarded are approaching 10 years of active service life. **In order to properly assess the existing needs for assistance, the agency must begin preparing to move into approvals for second vehicles.**

VEHICLE GRANT RATES AND MAXIMUM AWARDS...

The program will reimburse 90% of the cost of tankers, large brush trucks, small brush trucks, large truck chassis and small truck chassis, not to exceed certain maximum grant amounts:

Tanker and Large Brush Truck Maximum: \$155,000, or \$173,000 with CAFS
Small Brush Truck Maximum: \$78,000, or \$96,000 with CAFS
Large Truck Chassis: \$70,000
Small Truck Chassis: \$36,000

WHO IS ELIGIBLE...

Any chartered, non-profit volunteer fire department operated by its members is eligible. Combination part-volunteer, part-paid fire departments are also eligible provided the number of paid personnel does not exceed 20.

HOW AND WHEN TO APPLY...

Applications for first and second truck grants are now being accepted. Applications must be submitted on Form FO- 400, Application for Rural Fire Defense Assistance. Please complete, sign, and date the application form, attach a fully completed IRS Form W-9, and send to:

Texas A&M Forest Service
State Headquarters Building
Capacity Building Department
200 Technology Way, Suite 1162
College Station, Texas 77845- 3424

FAX: 979-845-6160 (Please call us to confirm that your fax was received)

APPLICANTS FOR FIRST FIRE TRUCKS...

Applicants that have not received a previous grant for a fire truck under this program will be given first priority. However, the grant application must be received before September 1, 2013 in order to qualify for this special priority. First-time applications for a fire truck received on or after September 1, 2013 will be approved based solely upon the standard rating system and approval criteria with no special consideration offered for first-time status.

PRIORITIES FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR...

The program's funding priorities and appropriations for the current fiscal year (September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013) have not changed. The \$7 million in FY 13 grant appropriations will continue to focus on firefighter training and personal protective equipment (PPE). During this period, applications for fire trucks will be examined and considered only at the year-end funding meeting.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS...

Grant application for second fire trucks submitted before November 1, 2012, will be considered invalid. The department will need to re-apply in order to have an active application on-file for a second fire truck.

Fire departments will be notified in writing as grants are approved. Purchases made before grant approval are not eligible for reimbursement. Purchases must be made after the grant approval date and receipt of official notification.

For additional information, please contact the following personnel:

Dina Nutall
College Station
979-458-6505
dnutall@tfs.tamu.edu

Ruth Ann Smith
Lufkin
936-639-8100
rsmith@tfs.tamu.edu

Informational Websites:

<http://texasforests.tamu.edu>

<http://www.tamu.edu/ticc/>

October 22, 2012