

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY

2800 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105

August 1, 2007

MORE WILDFIRE PLAN GRANTS AVAILABLE

For More Information Contact: Jack Carson (405) 522-4575

Oklahoma City—Volunteer fire departments that were not eligible for Community Wildfire Protection Plan grants can take advantage of a new grant package being offered this month.

The federally funded grant program is aimed at improving fire preparedness for areas not adequately protected from wildfires, said State Forester, John Burwell.

“We are offering 31 grants of up to \$2,500 each to help develop Firewise Protection Plans,” he said. “These plans are smaller in scale than the earlier CWPP grants and are the first step for a community to become a Recognized Firewise Community.”

Application deadline for the grants is August 31.

Grant funds can be used for contracting services, personnel time and GIS software and hardware. Grants must be approved before any monies are spent by fire departments or communities.

\$7,500 CWPP grants are still available for eligible communities who wish to develop more in-depth fire protection plans. If all available grants are not issued, more funding may be made available to volunteer fire departments and smaller departments.

Having fire protection plans such as Firewise and CWPP can be important for communities at risk because only then are they eligible for taking advantage of U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management funds available to help with projects such as fuel reduction and other hazard mitigation efforts. Burwell said plans might address numerous issues including wildfire response, community preparedness and structure protection.

“We are providing assistance from Forestry Services in helping train people about the program or advising them on the correct way to submit their applications,” he said.

Application forms are available online at www.oda.state.ok.us or may be requested from Resource Protection Staff Forester, Steve Mattax at (405) 522-8889.

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**FIREWISE PLAN – NATIONAL FIRE PLAN
REIMBURSEMENT GRANT APPLICATION-FY2007
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY
FORESTRY SERVICES**

General Guidelines

1. Eligible applicants are Fire Departments. County governments are not eligible.

2. Minimum requirements of a **Firewise Plan**:
(For a detailed description of minimum requirements reference “Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, A Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities” available on the Internet at <http://www.safnet.org/policyandpress/cwpphandbook.pdf>.)

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry/ Forestry Division shall supply Firewise Plan template.

 - A. Form a Firewise Board
 - i. Form a core team made up of representatives from the appropriate local fire authority, local interested parties, local governments, and Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry/ Forestry Division

 - B. Involve Federal Agencies
 - i. Identify and engage local representatives of the USFS and BIA
 - ii. Contact and involve other land management agencies as appropriate

 - C. Engage Interested Parties
 - i. Contact and encourage active involvement in plan development from a broad range of interested organizations and stakeholders.

 - D. Establish a Community Base Map
 - i. Work with partners to establish a baseline map of the community that defines the community’s Wildland Urban Interface and displays inhabited areas at risk, forested area that contain critical human infrastructure and forested areas at risk for large-scale fire disturbance.

 - E. Develop a Community Risk Assessment
 - i. Work with partners to develop a community risk assessment that considers fuel hazards; risk of wildfire occurrence; homes, businesses, and essential infrastructure at risk; other community values at risk; and local preparedness capability.
 - ii. Rate the level of risk for each factor and incorporate into the base map as appropriate.

 - F. Establish Community Priorities and Recommendations
 - i. Use the base map and community risk assessment to facilitate a collaborative community discussion that leads to the identification of local priorities for fuel treatment, reducing structure ignitability, and other issues of interest, such as improving fire response capability.

APPLICATION DEADLINE AUGUST 31, 2007

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- ii. Clearly indicate whether priority projects are directly related to protection of communities and essential infrastructure or to reducing wildfire risk to other community values.

- G. Develop an Action Plan and Assessment Strategy
 - i. Consider developing a detailed implementation strategy to accompany the Firewise Plan, as well as a monitoring plan that will ensure long-term success.

- H. Finalize Community Wildfire Protection Plan
 - i. Finalize the Firewise Plan and communicate the results to the community and key partners.

- 3. Major Categories of expenditures in the development of a **Firewise Plan**:
 - A. Contracting Services

 - B. Personnel Time

 - C. GIS Software and Hardware

- 4. Funding limits per Grant are:
 - A. Maximum grant award \$2,500.

 - B. This is a 100% Federal pass-thru reimbursement grant.

 - C. No advance payments will be made. Grant amounts will only be distributed when Firewise Plan is Finalized. Grant amounts may be claimed only on a reimbursement basis; 100% of expenses will be reimbursed up to the grant award amount. **(Example: Spend \$2,000 to receive \$2,000 reimbursement.) Only one (1) payment may be requested during the grant period.**

 - D. **Recipients can only make purchases after their community has been officially awarded a grant and received a copy of the State Purchase Order issued by the Department of Agriculture. Expenses prior to the State Purchase Order date will not be eligible for this grant.**

 - E. Recipients must certify eligibility to receive federal funds and must comply with applicable federal regulations.

 - F. Recipients must submit their **Federal Employers Identification (FEI)** number before a State Purchase Order can be issued.

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