



RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONAL GRANTS

FORESTRY SERVICES DIVISION OKLAHOMA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FORESTRY

Background – When funds are made available from the Oklahoma Legislature, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry – Forestry Services distributes Rural Fire Operational Grants to certified fire departments in incorporated cities (under 10,000 population), towns, and legally formed fire departments.

Use of Operational Grants - According to language found in Oklahoma State Statutes, Title 19, Chapter 21, Section 901.56, these Operational Grants have specific guidelines how the funds can be spent in support of a certified fire department.

Operational Grant funds can be used for the following:

- Maintenance of the fire department
- Purchase, construction, maintenance, repair and operation of:
 - Fire stations
 - Fire apparatus
 - Fire equipment
- Purchase, rental, installation or maintenance of fire hydrants
- Payment of insurance premiums upon:
 - Fire stations
 - Fire apparatus
 - Fire equipment
- Payment of insurance premiums for injuries or deaths of fire fighters
- Purchase of land or construction of buildings for fire stations, under the following conditions according to O.S. Title 19, Chapter 21, Section 901.56.G:
 - All previous obligations for the purchase of the land or construction of buildings for fire stations have been fully satisfied.
 - Grantee holds simple title to the land, without any liens
 - Has held a lease on the land for not less than ten (10) years, with provisions for renewal of the lease annually
 - Construction of a fire station on land donated to the fire department specifically for use as a fire station location
- Payment for fire fighters to attend certified fire school training under the following conditions:
 - Dollars expended are not to exceed ten percent of the Grant amount, or;
 - Not to exceed \$1,000 total expenditures

Operational Grants are not to be used for:

- Any purposes relating to the water supply systems of any grant recipient
- Improvement or construction of water supply systems
- Appurtenances relating to the distribution or use of such water supply system.
- Expenditure or obligation for the purchase of land except as specified previously.

Audit of Expenditures – Pursuant to Oklahoma State Statutes (Title 19, Chapter 901.57.C.11), a follow-up compliance audit of the Operational Grant expenditures will be conducted by the Rural Fire Coordinators and Forestry Services Division of the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Forestry. Expenditures made will be recorded on a supplied Rural Fire Department Operational Grant Expenditure Record or an equivalent spreadsheet.

For auditing purposes, the Grantee must provide a copy of the bank account deposit slip and copies of receipts to verify that the purchases claimed on the Expenditure Record meet the intent of the Operational Grant. Expenditures made prior to the Grant deposit will not be considered during the audit.

Additional Information – For more information concerning Operational Grants, contact the Forestry Services Division's Rural Fire Defense Program at 405-288-2385.