

# OKLAHOMA WILDLAND FIRE NOTES

July 2015

## OKLAHOMA FORESTRY SERVICES STAFF

at your service

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## OKLAHOMA 80/20 REIMBURSEMENT GRANTS OVERVIEW

### What are Rural Fire 80/20 Reimbursement Grants?

Oklahoma's Rural Fire 80/20 Reimbursement Grant Program provides funding to rural fire departments. These grants are authorized by Governor Mary Fallin, funded by the Oklahoma Legislature, and administered by Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Forestry Services (OFS) through our Rural Fire Coordinators.

Grants are awarded to legal entities (cities, towns, fire departments or districts) with a population of less than 10,000 for rural fire department equipment purchases or construction. The grants provide reimbursement of 80% of the total amount of the project. Grant recipients receive reimbursement only after the purchase or construction costs have been paid by the recipient. No advance payments can be made. Recipients can only make purchases after their fire department has been officially awarded a grant and received a copy of the State Purchase Order issued by ODAFF

### How much funding is available?

The total amount available statewide in the program for 2015 is \$200,000. Grants are awarded in all eleven districts of Oklahoma's rural fire defense program. The amount of funding available in each district is based upon the number total number of fire departments in the district.

Individual Department Award limits:

- Fire station construction - \$30,000 grant limit
- Fire equipment purchase - \$20,000 grant limit

### What are the steps to applying for an 80/20 reimbursement grant?

1. Fill out an application. The application can be downloaded anytime from Oklahoma Forestry Services' website at [www.forestry.ok.gov/firegrants](http://www.forestry.ok.gov/firegrants)
2. Send the application to your local rural fire coordinator by close of business on **September 1, 2015**. The contact information for your rural fire coordinator is available online at [www.forestry.ok.gov/rural-fire-defense-program](http://www.forestry.ok.gov/rural-fire-defense-program).
3. The rural fire coordinators will score each nomination and determine which departments receive grants.
4. Oklahoma Forestry Services will notify all applicants around October 10, of whether their fire department will be awarded a grant.

### If my fire department is awarded a grant, what happens?

If awarded an 80/20 grant, the recipient:

1. Receives notification of the award
2. Submits their Federal Employers Identification (FEI) number to Oklahoma Forestry Services
3. Receives a copy of their State Purchase Order from Oklahoma Forestry Services
4. Pays for the equipment or construction
5. Submits proof of purchase or payment to Oklahoma Forestry Services
6. Receives the reimbursement payment through electronic funds transfer.

## Has the amount of funding for these grants decreased in 2015 from 2014?

No. While the legislature has historically provided for higher funding, over the past four years it has only provided \$200,000 for this program. In an effort to maintain the program at its highest possible level, Oklahoma Forestry Services has supplemented an additional \$200,000 from its operating budget during those years, making a total of \$400,000 available for 80/20 grants. Unfortunately, budget restraints prevented Oklahoma Forestry Services from being able to supplement the program in 2014. The budget cut for this year makes the potential for supplemental funding even less likely.

## How are grant recipients selected each year?

Grant applications are graded by the rural fire coordinator in each Rural Fire District. Once the grants are graded, they are ranked in each Rural Fire District and those grant applications with the highest point total are provided grants until the available funds are extinguished.

## Which fire departments received 2014-2015 Reimbursement Grants?

The funding was distributed as follows:

RECIPIENTS	COUNTY	AMOUNT OF GRANT	GRANT PROJECT
Afton Volunteer Fire Department	Ottawa	\$16,454.23	Station addition
Cedar Lake / Can Valley Fire Department	Canadian	\$1,916.00	Pump
Corn Fire Department	Washita	\$13,600.00	Fire trucks
Corum Fire Department	Stephens	\$4,770.00	Hose & nozzles
Freedom Fire Department	Woods	\$11,587.49	PPE
Harrah Fire Department	Oklahoma	\$950.40	Hydrant gates & fittings
Hollis Fire Department	Harmon	\$304.98	Bunker gear, nozzles & tools
Holly Creek / Oak Hill Fire Department	McCurtain	\$28,041.71	New station
Jones Fire Department	Oklahoma	\$3,080.00	Fire pump
Kellyville Fire Department	Creek	\$15,990.73	Station addition
Kildare Fire Department	Kay	\$16,454.23	New station
McCloud Fire Department	Pottawotamie	\$17,149.48	Station addition
Milburn Fire Department	Johnston	\$20,041.71	New station
Ninnekah Fire Department	Grady	\$1,512.76	Gas heaters
Olney Volunteer Fire Department	Coal	\$8,000.00	Overhead doors & finish interior
Piedmont Fire Department	Canadian	\$1,469.60	Bunker gear
Pioneer Fire Department	Grady	\$4,486.58	Overhead doors
Twin Hills Fire Department	Okmulgee	\$21,552.72	Station addition
Waurika Fire Department	Jefferson	\$12,637.38	Station addition

## Questions?

Contact your local rural fire coordinator  
or Oklahoma Forestry Services staff.



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