

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



Rural VFD Assistance Program (HB2604)

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE WILL IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING CHANGES/AMENDMENTS TO THE RURAL VFD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2014:

TRAINING TUITION

Cost-share assistance for Training Tuition has increased. The new reimbursement rate is 100% of the actual cost of tuition not to exceed **\$122 per day** up to a maximum of \$610 per trainee. The maximum grant assistance per school per department is \$6,100. The ANNUAL MAXIMUM for all Training Tuition assistance per department is \$12,000.

FIRE EQUIPMENT

Computers are now integrated into the Fire Equipment category. However, there will be a limit of two computers per Fire Equipment grant. All computer applications submitted on or after 9/16/2014 will be transferred to the Fire Equipment category. All requests for a computer submitted before 9/16/2014 will be funded during the October 1, 2014 RVFDAP (HB2604) Funding Meeting.

ELIGIBILITY

Any chartered, non-profit volunteer fire department operated by its members is eligible. Any part-paid/part-volunteer fire department is also eligible provided the number of paid members is 20 or less. **Clarification:** Paid members are calculated based on the number of full-time paid and part-paid positions. Two part-paid positions are equivalent to one full-time paid position.

VEHICLE SERVICE LIFE

Amendment: All vehicles acquired under this program must be maintained in firefighting service for a period of 10 years from the reimbursement check date. If a cost-shared vehicle is sold before the end of its 10-year service life under this program, the possessor may be required to reimburse the program for 90% of the proceeds from the sale of the vehicle. The possessor must notify the Texas A&M Forest Service in advance and must obtain clearance to sell or transfer a grant vehicle before the end of its 10-year service life. The Funding Committee may waive on a case-by-case basis the requirement that 90% of the sale proceeds be returned to the program.

FEDERAL FUNDS -- FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

TFS may utilize federal funds to extend additional grant awards in a variety of program categories. In order to be considered for federal funds, applicants must serve a population of less than ten thousand, submit a DUNS number, and be listed as having adopted NIMS with the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). Upon grant award, a grant recipient will receive an A-133 Certification Letter that must be completed and returned for final grant approval.

For more information on:

- **NIMS Adoption** -- How to adopt NIMS?
<http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/main/popup.aspx?id=17356>
- **DUNS Number** -- Assignment is free, call 1-866-705-5711 or visit
<http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/>