

# **Truck Guidelines**

## Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program

**All fire departments receiving cost-share funding for the purchase of a vehicle must comply with the following special requirements:**

1. All department personnel must be trained in the proper operation and maintenance of trucks, pumps, systems, and related equipment. Personnel training must be documented.
2. 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 grant recipient may be required to reimburse the program for 90% of the proceeds from the sale of the vehicle. The grant recipient must notify TFS 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. Recipients receiving transferred vehicles prior to the end of their 10 year service life shall be subject to the terms and conditions as described in this section.
3. All vehicles must be meet the minimum standards as described in the attachment "Minimum Standards and Specifications for Firefighting Vehicles."
4. An Affidavit of Non-Collusion (page 2) must be completed, signed, and notarized by the seller of the vehicle. The Fire Department must submit the completed affidavit to the Texas A&M Forest Service before a grant reimbursement may be paid.
5. The purchase of pre-owned vehicles and equipment requires advance evaluation and approval by the Texas A&M Forest Service. An applicant must contact the Capacity Building Department before purchasing a used vehicle or used equipment. Failure to receive this special advance clearance may void your grant approval.
6. Vehicles purchased, paid in full, prior to the award date are ineligible for reimbursement under this program.

## **Responsibilities of the Fire Department Following Notice of Grant Approval:**

1. Accept the award via [FireConnect](#).
2. Purchase the approved item(s). *Remember to obtain special approval for a pre-owned vehicle.*
3. Submit for Reimbursement via [FireConnect](#), and upload the following supporting documents:
  - Affidavit of Non-Collusion
  - Proof of Payment
    - Copies of Signed Check(s)
    - Credit Card Receipt(s)
    - Paid Vendor Invoice(s) showing the last 4 digits of credit card used
    - Bank/Credit Card Statement(s) Showing the Purchase
4. A member of our Field Staff must perform an inspection of the vehicle at the fire station before a grant reimbursement can be issued.
5. Grants for firefighting vehicles will expire **12 months** from the approval date. Extensions may be available upon request via [FireConnect](#).

STATE OF  
COUNTY OF

GENERAL AFFIDAVIT BEFORE NOTARY  
AFFIDAVIT OF NON-COLLUSION

SELLER

PURCHASER

Name:	<input type="text"/>	Name:	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>	Address:	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
Phone:	<input type="text"/>	Phone:	<input type="text"/>

VEHICLE INFORMATION

Year:  Make:  Model:

VIN:

Date of Sale:  Total Sale Price: \$

I, , the undersigned, being the duly authorized agent of the Seller, , swear that the foregoing information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, and that this document correctly states the total amount of consideration for the transfer of this vehicle. I further affirm that neither I nor the above business has been a party to any collusion with the Purchaser as to the Total Sale Price of the vehicle. I further affirm that the Total Sale Price is genuine, and is not a sham or collusive price made in the interest or on behalf of any person, and that the Seller has not directly or indirectly been induced or solicited to submit a sham Total Sale Price.

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

STATE OF  
COUNTY OF

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Notary Public

\_\_\_\_\_  
My Commission Expires

# **Minimum Standards and Specs for Firefighting Vehicles**

All vehicles funded under this program must be fire suppression vehicles and must meet the following minimum standards. These standards are developed to establish broad equipment categories for funding and review. They are not intended as “bid ready” equipment specifications. Departments are strongly encouraged to add capabilities and features required to meet local needs.

## **WEIGHT AND BALANCE**

The fully loaded and equipped operating weight of the vehicle must not exceed the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of the vehicle as determined by the manufacturer, nor the Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR) of the vehicle as determined by the manufacturer. The vehicle weight must be balanced so that the vehicle is easy to control. The vehicle center-of-gravity must be low enough to safely operate in curves and on side slopes. The vehicle must have effective brakes that can stop the vehicle without brake fade.

## **TANKS**

- All vehicles must have a water tank with a minimum capacity of 200 gallons.
- All water tanks must be baffled.
- Tanks constructed of mild steel are prohibited.

### **SMALL BRUSH TRUCK**

*Minimum Specs*

200 Gallon Water Tank  
100 GPM Pump @ 100 psi  
Ability to draft water a minimum  
of 12 vertical feet  
2.5” pump discharge

### **LARGE BRUSH TRUCK**

*Minimum Specs*

500 Gallon Water Tank  
250 GPM Pump @ 40 psi  
Ability to draft water a minimum  
of 12 vertical feet  
2.5” pump discharge  
Minimum 22,000 pound GVWR  
chassis

### **TANKER**

*Minimum Specs*

1,000 Gallon Water Tank  
250 GPM Pump @ 40 psi  
Minimum Dump Valve of 4.5”  
(round or square)  
Ability to draft water a minimum  
of 12 vertical feet  
Minimum 22,000 pound GVWR  
chassis

## **OTHER MINIMUM SPECS**

- All slippery surfaces where personnel will step must have skid plates or abrasive surfaces to prevent personnel from slipping under wet conditions.
- Vehicle must have back-up alarm.
- Vehicle must have illuminated pump controls.
- Vehicle must have vehicle lighting and markings as required by law.

# **Notice to Purchasers of New Fire Trucks**

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*These guidelines apply for those purchasing a truck in Texas.*

The sale and lease of new motor vehicles in Texas is regulated by the Texas Occupations Code, Title 14, Regulation of Motor Vehicles and Transportation, Chapter 2301, Sale or Lease of Motor Vehicles. The law is administered and enforced by the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT).

The law requires that vehicle manufacturers, converters, representatives, and franchised dealers be properly licensed and that they comply with certain standards of conduct.

**According to TXDOT interpretations, a franchised dealer, and only a franchised dealer, is legally allowed to sell a new fire truck in Texas. This applies whether the truck offered for sale is a manufactured vehicle or a converted vehicle.**

## Manufactured Vehicles

A fire truck that meets or exceeds the legal definition of a “fire-fighting vehicle” is considered a manufactured product and the entity that builds it is considered a “manufacturer”.

Manufacturers cannot sell motor vehicles directly to consumers in Texas, including municipalities, and must have at least one franchised dealer located in the state in order to maintain their license.

## Converted Vehicles

A fire truck that does not meet the legal definition of a “fire-fighting vehicle” is considered a converted product (conversion). It is a new motor vehicle chassis that has something substantial done to it prior to being sold to an end-user. The entity that builds it is considered a “converter”.

Neither converters nor their representatives are allowed to sell converted vehicles directly to consumers. A new fire truck that is considered a conversion may only be sold to an end-user, including a municipality, by a Texas dealer franchised and licensed to sell the make of the chassis of the converted product.

A licensed, franchised dealer must be listed as the seller or bidder of a new vehicle. This dealer must invoice the end-user for the entire purchase price of the vehicle including the conversion package, must obtain payment for the entire purchase price, and must perform the title work on the completed vehicle.

## **What Should A Fire Department Do?**

1. Comply with the law:
  - Determine that the manufacturer or converter of a fire truck is properly licensed to do business in Texas.
  - Determine that the fire truck is to be sold to the end-user by a licensed franchised dealer.
2. Contact Texas Department of Motor Vehicles for information:  
Telephone: 1-888-368-4689  
Website: <https://www.txdmv.gov/dealers>

Texas A&M Forest Service is providing this notice for educational purposes only, in an effort to promote compliance with the law. The final authority for communication, interpretation, and enforcement resides with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. Buyers and sellers of new fire trucks are encouraged to contact TXDOT directly for clarification and guidance.



# **Minimum Standards and Specs for CAFS-Equipped Vehicles**

In addition to the minimum standards and specifications for Small Brush Trucks, Large Brush Trucks, and Tenders, the following minimum standards are required for CAFS equipped vehicles and Slip-On Modules:

## **WATER PUMP**

- Minimum Water Pump Capacity: 90 GPM @ 100 PSI
- Minimum CAFS Solution (Water) Flow: 20 GPM for a 1-inch CAFS discharge

## **AIR COMPRESSOR**

- Minimum Air Pressure: 100 PSI
- Minimum Air Flow: 20 SCFM for a 1-inch CAFS discharge

## **FOAM PROPORTIONER**

- Unit shall be equipped with a discharge-side foam proportioning system capable of inserting Class A Foam in percentages from 0.01% to 1.0%.
- Foam concentrate insertion point shall be downstream of the tank-fill discharge and the pump re-circulation line, with at least one check valve (recommended non-metallic) to prevent foam concentrate from entering the water supply.

## **PLUMBING**

- Plumbing exposed to foam solution shall be stainless steel or, where necessary for flexing, high-pressure wire-reinforced hose.
- Plumbing shall be assembled using unions, flanges, swivels, etc., to facilitate the servicing of all components.
- Check valves shall be used to prevent water from entering the air compressor and foam concentrate; to prevent air from entering the water pump and foam concentrate; to prevent foam concentrate from entering the water pump and air compressor; and to prevent foam concentrate and air from entering the water tank.

## **MINIMUM ACCESSORIES**

- Unit shall have vibration-dampening gauges for water and air pressure.
- Unit shall have plumbed into the air system, a quick-connect female fitting for standard air hose male fittings.

## **MINIMUM OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS**

- CAFS flows shall be capable of an operator-selectable “wet” to “dry” aerated foam discharge (similar trajectory to that of a water-only stream on the “wet” side and have the ability to cling to a vertical surface on the “dry” side).
- CAFS unit shall be able to produce independent flows of air, water, foam solution, or CAFS, and simultaneous flows of compressed air foam, or foam solution and plain water, with combined flows up to the maximum rated GPM capacity of the pump at 100 PSI.
- The water pump discharge pressure shall be operator-selectable.



# **Optional Suggested Standards and Specs for CAFS-Equipped Vehicles**

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The following Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS) specifications are for consideration as design options for mid-size CAFS modules. They exceed the minimum published standards for CAFS modules required under the HB 2604 grant program. These specifications are presented for informational purposes only. They are intended to guide fire departments in designing CAFS trucks with higher capability.

*These specifications do not meet the current minimum standards for the Texas Addendum to ISO for CAFS Credit.*

There are several possible considerations for creating a CAFS fire truck. The conversion can be accomplished by adding a fully self-contained CAFS module (water pump, air compressor, and foam proportioner), or by adding components to a truck or slip-on module, with one or more of these CAFS components already in place. Some CAFS manufacturers offer modules with or without water pumps and pricing will vary accordingly.

## ***Suggested Specifications For a Mid-Sized CAFS Module:***

### **WATER PUMP**

- Minimum Capacity: 250 GPM at 40 PSI, minimum operating performance of 100 GPM at 100 PSI
- Minimum CAFS Solution (Water) Flow: 45 GPM for a 1.5" discharge

### **AIR COMPRESSOR**

- Minimum Air Pressure: 100 PSI
- Minimum Air Flow: 45 SCFM for a 1.5" discharge.
- A Rotary-Screw compressor is required.

### **FOAM PROPORTIONER**

- Unit should be equipped with a discharge-side foam proportioning system capable of inserting Class A foam in percentages from 0.01% to 1.0%.
- The foam concentrate insertion point should be downstream of the tank-fill discharge and the pump recirculation line, with at least one check valve (recommended non-metallic) to prevent foam concentrate from entering the water supply.

### **PLUMBING**

- Plumbing exposed to foam solution should be stainless steel, or where necessary for flexing, high-pressure wire-reinforced hose.
- Plumbing should be assembled using unions, flanges, swivels, etc., to facilitate the servicing of all components.
- Check valves should be used to prevent water from entering the air compressor and foam concentrate; to prevent air from entering the water pump and foam concentrate; to prevent foam concentrate from entering the water pump and air compressor; and to prevent foam concentrate from entering the water tank.

### **MINIMUM ACCESSORIES**

- Unit should have vibration-dampening gauges for water and air pressure.
- Unit should have plumbed into the air system, a quick-connect female fitting for standard air hose male fittings.

### **MINIMUM OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE**

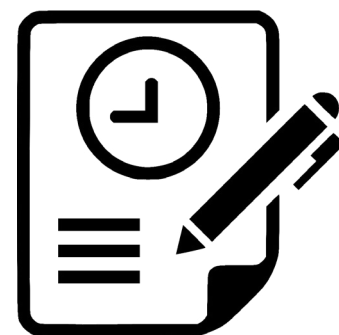
- CAFS flows should be capable of an operator-selectable "wet" to "dry" aerated foam discharge (similar trajectory to that of a water-only stream on the "wet" side, and have the ability to cling to a vertical surface on the "dry" side).
- CAFS unit should be able to produce independent flows of air, water, foam, solution, or CAFS, and simultaneous flows of compressed air foam, or foam solution and plain water, with combined flows up to the maximum rated GPM capacity of the pump at 100 PSI.
- The water pump discharge pressure should be operator-selectable.

# BEST PRACTICES FOR WORKING WITH FIRE TRUCK CONVERTERS



**Research and get feedback from other fire departments that have done business with the vendor(s) you are considering**

**Have a detailed, written contract with a completion date**



**Be cautious of paying up front for incomplete work**

**Make sure the work you're requesting is within the vendor's area of expertise**



# Truck Chassis Guidelines

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## Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program

**All fire departments receiving cost-share funding for the purchase of a chassis must comply with the following special requirements:**

1. All department personnel must be trained in the proper operation and maintenance of trucks, pumps, systems, and related equipment. Personnel training must be documented.
2. All chassis 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 a prorated portion of the original grant amount. The possessor must notify 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.
3. All truck chassis must be constructed to the minimum specifications as described in the attachment "Minimum Standards and Specifications for Firefighting Vehicles."
  - Ex: A small truck chassis must adhere to small brush truck specifications
4. An Affidavit of Non-Collusion (page 2) must be completed, signed, and notarized by the seller of a vehicle. The Fire Department must submit the completed affidavit to the Texas A&M Forest Service before a grant reimbursement may be paid.
5. The purchase of pre-owned chassis and equipment requires advance evaluation and approval by the Texas A&M Forest Service. An applicant must contact the Capacity Building Department before purchasing a used chassis or used equipment. Failure to receive this special advance clearance may void your grant approval.
6. Chassis purchased, paid in full, prior to the award date are ineligible for reimbursement under this program.

## Responsibilities of the Fire Department Following Notice of Grant Approval:

1. Accept the award via [FireConnect](#).
2. Purchase the approved item(s). *Remember to obtain special approval for pre-owned chassis.*
3. Submit for Reimbursement via [FireConnect](#), and upload the following supporting documents:
  - Affidavit of Non-Collusion
  - Proof of Payment
    - Copies of Signed Check(s)
    - Credit Card Receipt(s)
    - Paid Vendor Invoice(s) showing the last 4 digits of credit card used
    - Bank/Credit Card Statement(s) Showing the Purchase
4. A member of our Field Staff must perform an inspection of the vehicle at the fire station before a grant reimbursement can be issued.
5. Grants for firefighting vehicles will expire **12 months** from the approval date. Extensions may be available upon request via [FireConnect](#).



STATE OF  
COUNTY OF

GENERAL AFFIDAVIT BEFORE NOTARY  
AFFIDAVIT OF NON-COLLUSION

SELLER

PURCHASER

Name:   
Address:   
  
Phone:

Name:   
Address:   
  
Phone:

VEHICLE INFORMATION

Year:  Make:  Model:   
VIN:   
Date of Sale:  Total Sale Price: \$

I, , the undersigned, being the duly authorized agent of the Seller, , swear that the foregoing information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, and that this document correctly states the total amount of consideration for the transfer of this vehicle. I further affirm that neither I nor the above business has been a party to any collusion with the Purchaser as to the Total Sale Price of the vehicle. I further affirm that the Total Sale Price is genuine, and is not a sham or collusive price made in the interest or on behalf of any person, and that the Seller has not directly or indirectly been induced or solicited to submit a sham Total Sale Price.

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

STATE OF  
COUNTY OF

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Notary Public

\_\_\_\_\_  
My Commission Expires

# **Minimum Standards and Specs for Firefighting Vehicles**

All vehicles funded under this program must be fire suppression vehicles and must meet the following minimum standards. These standards are developed to establish broad equipment categories for funding and review. They are not intended as “bid ready” equipment specifications. Departments are strongly encouraged to add capabilities and features required to meet local needs.

## **WEIGHT AND BALANCE**

The fully loaded and equipped operating weight of the vehicle must not exceed the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of the vehicle as determined by the manufacturer, nor the Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR) of the vehicle as determined by the manufacturer. The vehicle weight must be balanced so that the vehicle is easy to control. The vehicle center-of-gravity must be low enough to safely operate in curves and on side slopes. The vehicle must have effective brakes that can stop the vehicle without brake fade.

## **TANKS**

- All vehicles must have a water tank with a minimum capacity of 200 gallons.
- All water tanks must be baffled.
- Tanks constructed of mild steel are prohibited.

### **SMALL BRUSH TRUCK**

*Minimum Specs*

200 Gallon Water Tank  
100 GPM Pump @ 100 psi  
Ability to draft water a minimum  
of 12 vertical feet  
2.5” pump discharge

### **LARGE BRUSH TRUCK**

*Minimum Specs*

500 Gallon Water Tank  
250 GPM Pump @ 40 psi  
Ability to draft water a minimum  
of 12 vertical feet  
2.5” pump discharge  
Minimum 22,000 pound GVWR  
chassis

### **TANKER**

*Minimum Specs*

1,000 Gallon Water Tank  
250 GPM Pump @ 40 psi  
Minimum Dump Valve of 4.5”  
(round or square)  
Ability to draft water a minimum  
of 12 vertical feet  
Minimum 22,000 pound GVWR  
chassis

## **OTHER MINIMUM SPECS**

- All slippery surfaces where personnel will step must have skid plates or abrasive surfaces to prevent personnel from slipping under wet conditions.
- Vehicle must have back-up alarm.
- Vehicle must have illuminated pump controls.
- Vehicle must have vehicle lighting and markings as required by law.

# **Notice to Purchasers of New Fire Trucks**

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*These guidelines apply for those purchasing a truck in Texas.*

The sale and lease of new motor vehicles in Texas is regulated by the Texas Occupations Code, Title 14, Regulation of Motor Vehicles and Transportation, Chapter 2301, Sale or Lease of Motor Vehicles. The law is administered and enforced by the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT).

The law requires that vehicle manufacturers, converters, representatives, and franchised dealers be properly licensed and that they comply with certain standards of conduct.

**According to TXDOT interpretations, a franchised dealer, and only a franchised dealer, is legally allowed to sell a new fire truck in Texas. This applies whether the truck offered for sale is a manufactured vehicle or a converted vehicle.**

## Manufactured Vehicles

A fire truck that meets or exceeds the legal definition of a “fire-fighting vehicle” is considered a manufactured product and the entity that builds it is considered a “manufacturer”.

Manufacturers cannot sell motor vehicles directly to consumers in Texas, including municipalities, and must have at least one franchised dealer located in the state in order to maintain their license.

## Converted Vehicles

A fire truck that does not meet the legal definition of a “fire-fighting vehicle” is considered a converted product (conversion). It is a new motor vehicle chassis that has something substantial done to it prior to being sold to an end-user. The entity that builds it is considered a “converter”.

Neither converters nor their representatives are allowed to sell converted vehicles directly to consumers. A new fire truck that is considered a conversion may only be sold to an end-user, including a municipality, by a Texas dealer franchised and licensed to sell the make of the chassis of the converted product.

A licensed, franchised dealer must be listed as the seller or bidder of a new vehicle. This dealer must invoice the end-user for the entire purchase price of the vehicle including the conversion package, must obtain payment for the entire purchase price, and must perform the title work on the completed vehicle.

## **WHAT SHOULD A FIRE DEPARTMENT DO?**

1. Comply with the law:
  - Determine that the manufacturer or converter of a fire truck is properly licensed to do business in Texas.
  - Determine that the fire truck is to be sold to the end-user by a licensed franchised dealer.
2. Contact Texas Department of Motor Vehicles for information:  
Telephone: 1-888-368-4689  
Website: <https://www.txdmv.gov/dealers>

Texas A&M Forest Service is providing this notice for educational purposes only, in an effort to promote compliance with the law. The final authority for communication, interpretation, and enforcement resides with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. Buyers and sellers of new fire trucks are encouraged to contact TXDOT directly for clarification and guidance.

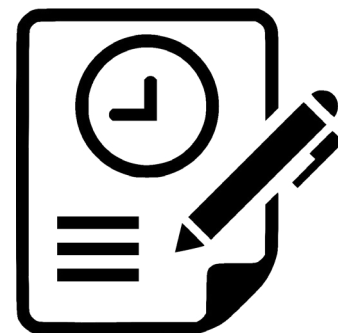


# BEST PRACTICES FOR WORKING WITH FIRE TRUCK CONVERTERS



**Research and get feedback from other fire departments that have done business with the vendor(s) you are considering**

**Have a detailed, written contract with a completion date**



**Be cautious of paying up front for incomplete work**

**Make sure the work you're requesting is within the vendor's area of expertise**



# Slip-On Unit Guidelines

## Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program

### Responsibilities of the Fire Department Following Notice of Grant Approval:

1. Purchase the approved item(s)
2. Submit for Reimbursement via [FireConnect](#), and upload the following supporting documents:
  - Proof of Payment
    - Copies of Signed Check(s)
    - Credit Card Receipt(s)
    - Paid Vendor Invoice(s) showing the last 4 digits of credit card used
    - Bank/Credit Card Statement(s) Showing the Purchase
3. A member of our Field Staff must perform an inspection of the equipment at the fire station before a grant reimbursement can be issued.
4. Grants for slip-on units will expire **12 months** from the approval date. Extensions may be available upon request via [FireConnect](#).
5. Equipment or services purchased prior to the award date are ineligible for grant assistance under this program.

### Minimum Standards and Specs for Slip-On Units

All slip-on units funded under this program must meet the following minimum standards. These standards were developed to establish broad equipment categories for funding and review; they are not intended as “bid ready” equipment specifications. Departments are strongly encouraged to add capabilities and features as required to meet local needs.

#### WEIGHT AND BALANCE

- The fully loaded and equipped operating weight of the vehicle must not exceed the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of the vehicle as determined by the manufacturer, nor the Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR) of the vehicle as determined by the manufacturer.
- The vehicle weight must be balanced so that the vehicle is easy to control.
- The vehicle center-of-gravity must be low enough to safely operate in curves and on side slopes.
- The vehicle must have effective brakes that can stop the vehicle without brake fade.

#### TANKS

- All water tanks must be baffled.
- All water tanks constructed of mild steel must be protected from corrosion.

#### Small Brush Truck

##### *Design Minimums*

200 Gallon Water Tank  
100 GPM Pump @ 100 psi  
Ability to draft water at a minimum  
of 12 vertical feet  
2.5” pump discharge  
Minimum ¾ ton chassis

#### Large Brush Truck (2.5/5 Ton Military)

##### *Design Minimums*

500 Gallon Water Tank  
250 GPM Pump @ 40 psi  
Ability to draft water a minimum of 12  
vertical feet  
2.5” pump discharge  
Minimum 22,000 pound GVWR chassis

#### Water Tender

##### *Design Minimums*

1,000 Gallon Water Tank  
250 GPM Pump @ 40 psi  
Minimum Dump Valve of 4.5 inch  
(round or square)  
Ability to draft water a minimum of  
12 vertical feet  
Minimum 22,000 pound GVWR  
chassis



# **Minimum Standards and Specs for Slip-On Units**

All vehicles funded under this program must be fire suppression vehicles and must meet the following minimum standards. These standards are developed to establish broad equipment categories for funding and review. They are not intended as “bid ready” equipment specifications. Departments are strongly encouraged to add capabilities and features required to meet local needs.

## **WEIGHT AND BALANCE**

The fully loaded and equipped operating weight of the vehicle must not exceed the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of the vehicle as determined by the manufacturer, nor the Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR) of the vehicle as determined by the manufacturer. The vehicle weight must be balanced so that the vehicle is easy to control. The vehicle center-of-gravity must be low enough to safely operate in curves and on side slopes. The vehicle must have effective brakes that can stop the vehicle without brake fade.

## **TANKS**

- All vehicles must have a water tank with a minimum capacity of 200 gallons.
- All water tanks must be baffled.
- Tanks constructed of mild steel are prohibited.

### **SMALL BRUSH TRUCK**

*Minimum Specs*

200 Gallon Water Tank  
100 GPM Pump @ 100 psi  
Ability to draft water a minimum  
of 12 vertical feet  
2.5” pump discharge

### **LARGE BRUSH TRUCK**

*Minimum Specs*

500 Gallon Water Tank  
250 GPM Pump @ 40 psi  
Ability to draft water a minimum  
of 12 vertical feet  
2.5” pump discharge  
Minimum 22,000 pound GVWR  
chassis

### **TANKER**

*Minimum Specs*

1,000 Gallon Water Tank  
250 GPM Pump @ 40 psi  
Minimum Dump Valve of 4.5”  
(round or square)  
Ability to draft water a minimum  
of 12 vertical feet  
Minimum 22,000 pound GVWR  
chassis

## **OTHER MINIMUM SPECS**

- All slippery surfaces where personnel will step must have skid plates or abrasive surfaces to prevent personnel from slipping under wet conditions.
- Vehicle must have back-up alarm.
- Vehicle must have illuminated pump controls.
- Vehicle must have vehicle lighting and markings as required by law.

# **Minimum Standards and Specs for CAFS-Equipped Slip-On Units**

In addition to the minimum standards and specifications for Small Brush Trucks, Large Brush Trucks, and Tenders, the following minimum standards are required for CAFS equipped vehicles and Slip-On Modules:

## **WATER PUMP**

- Minimum Water Pump Capacity: 90 GPM @ 100 PSI
- Minimum CAFS Solution (Water) Flow: 20 GPM for a 1-inch CAFS discharge

## **AIR COMPRESSOR**

- Minimum Air Pressure: 100 PSI
- Minimum Air Flow: 20 SCFM for a 1" CAFS discharge

## **FOAM PROPORTIONER**

- Unit shall be equipped with a discharge-side foam proportioning system capable of inserting Class A Foam in percentages from 0.01% to 1.0%.
- Foam concentrate insertion point shall be downstream of the tank-fill discharge and the pump re-circulation line, with at least one check valve (recommended non-metallic) to prevent foam concentrate from entering the water supply.

## **PLUMBING**

- Plumbing exposed to foam solution shall be stainless steel or, where necessary for flexing, high-pressure wire-reinforced hose.
- Plumbing shall be assembled using unions, flanges, swivels, etc., to facilitate the servicing of all components.
- Check valves shall be used to prevent water from entering the air compressor and foam concentrate; to prevent air from entering the water pump and foam concentrate; to prevent foam concentrate from entering the water pump and air compressor; and to prevent foam concentrate and air from entering the water tank.

## **MINIMUM ACCESSORIES**

- Unit shall have vibration-dampening gauges for water and air pressure.
- Unit shall have plumbed into the air system, a quick-connect female fitting for standard air hose male fittings.

## **MINIMUM OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS**

- CAFS flows shall be capable of an operator-selectable "wet" to "dry" aerated foam discharge (similar trajectory to that of a water-only stream on the "wet" side and have the ability to cling to a vertical surface on the "dry" side).
- CAFS unit shall be able to produce independent flows of air, water, foam solution, or CAFS, and simultaneous flows of compressed air foam, or foam solution and plain water, with combined flows up to the maximum rated GPM capacity of the pump at 100 PSI.
- The water pump discharge pressure shall be operator-selectable.



## **Optional Suggested Specs for CAFS-Equipped Slip-On Units**

The following Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS) specifications are for consideration as design options for mid-size CAFS modules. They exceed the minimum published standards for CAFS modules required under the HB 2604 grant program. These specifications are presented for informational purposes only. They are intended to guide fire departments in designing CAFS trucks with higher capability.

*These specifications do not meet the current minimum standards for the Texas Addendum to ISO for CAFS Credit.*

There are several possible considerations for creating a CAFS fire truck. The conversion can be accomplished by adding a fully self-contained CAFS module (water pump, air compressor, and foam proportioner), or by adding components to a truck or slip-on module, with one or more of these CAFS components already in place. Some CAFS manufacturers offer modules with or without water pumps and pricing will vary accordingly.

### ***Suggested Specifications For a Mid-Sized CAFS Module:***

#### **WATER PUMP**

- Minimum Capacity: 250 GPM at 40 PSI, minimum operating performance of 100 GPM at 100 PSI
- Minimum CAFS Solution (Water) Flow: 45 GPM for a 1.5" discharge

#### **AIR COMPRESSOR**

- Minimum Air Pressure: 100 PSI
- Minimum Air Flow: 45 SCFM for a 1.5" discharge.
- A Rotary-Screw compressor is required.

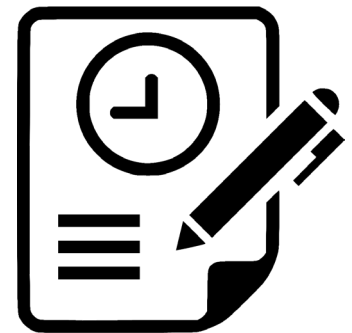


# BEST PRACTICES FOR WORKING WITH FIRE TRUCK CONVERTERS



**Research and get feedback from other fire departments that have done business with the vendor(s) you are considering**

**Have a detailed, written contract with a completion date**



**Be cautious of paying up front for incomplete work**

**Make sure the work you're requesting is within the vendor's area of expertise**



# **Fire/Rescue Equipment Guidelines**

## Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program

### **Responsibilities of the Fire Department Following Notice of Grant Approval:**

1. Purchase the approved item or items.
2. Submit for Reimbursement via [FireConnect](#), and upload the following supporting documents:
  - Proof of Payment
    - Copies of Signed Check(s)
    - Credit Card Receipt(s)
    - Paid Vendor Invoice(s) showing the last 4 digits of credit card used
    - Bank/Credit Card Statement(s) Showing the Purchase
3. Grants for fire/rescue equipment will expire **6 months** from the approval date. Extensions may be available upon request via [FireConnect](#).

### **List of Pre-Approved Items:**

- Self Contained Breathing Apparatus
- Thermal Camera
- Cascade System
- Extrication Equipment
- Gear Bags
- Computers (limit of 2 per department)
- Hose, Nozzles, and Ladders
- Emergency Lighting
- Portable Tank
- Generator
- Ventilation Fans and Saws
- Flashlights
- Small Engine (Pump)
- Fire Pump
- Communications Equipment
- Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

### **Note:**

- Items listed above are examples of items approved for cost-share reimbursement.
- Please contact us with specific questions regarding eligible items.
- Equipment or services purchased prior to the award date are ineligible for grant assistance under this program.
- If an individual item is valued at \$5,000 or greater, it must be inspected by a member of our field staff before a grant reimbursement can be issued.

# Personal Protective Equipment Guidelines

## Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program

### Responsibilities of the Fire Department Following Notice of Grant Approval:

1. Purchase approved item(s).
2. Submit for Reimbursement via [FireConnect](#), and upload the following supporting documents:
  - Proof of Payment
    - Copies of Signed Check(s)
    - Credit Card Receipt(s)
    - Paid Vendor Invoice(s) showing the last 4 digits of credit card used
    - Bank/Credit Card Statement(s) Showing the Purchase
3. Texas A&M Forest Service will then issue a reimbursement check or direct deposit of 90% of the cost, up to the specified amount shown on the approval notice.
4. Grants for PPE will expire **6 months** from the approval date. Extensions may be available upon request via [FireConnect](#).

### Complete List of Eligible Items

#### Structural Gear

- Bunker Coat
- Bunker Pants
- Structural Boots
- Structural Helmet
- Structural Goggles
- Structural Hood
- Structural Gloves
- Structural Suspenders
- Ear/Neck/Face Protectors (Shrouds)
- Visors
- Gear Bags

#### Wildland Gear

- Aramid Coveralls
- Aramid Pants
- Aramid Shirt
- Aramid Jacket
- Wildland Suspenders
- Wildland Gloves
- Wildland Hardhat
- Wildland Goggles
- Wildland Boots
- Ear/Neck/Face Protectors (Shrouds)
- Reflective Trim
- Fire Shelter
- Gear Bags

#### Other Equipment

- PPE Extractors and Dryers

### **Note:**

- Only the items listed above are eligible for cost-share reimbursement
- Wildland PPE must meet the most current requirements of NFPA 1977 for wildland gear
- Structural PPE must meet the current requirements of NFPA 1971 for structural gear

# Federal Award Requirement

If your PPE award has a **Federal Award Number** (seen in the award email and on the request accounting details in FireConnect), you must complete and submit an **AD-1048 Form** (next page) with your reimbursement documents. This is required by federal law in order for your department to receive reimbursement.



## Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion **AD-1048** Lower Tier Covered Transactions

*The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. § 552a, as amended). This certification is required by the regulations implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, and 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.300, 180.335, Participants' responsibilities. The regulations were amended and published on August 31, 2005, in 70 Fed. Reg. 51865-51880. Copies of the regulations may be obtained by contacting the Department of Agriculture agency offering the proposed covered transaction.*

*According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0505-0027. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal, civil, fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided.*

***(Read instructions on page two before completing certification.)***

- A. The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency:
- B. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

ORGANIZATION NAME

PR/AWARD NUMBER OR PROJECT NAME

NAME(S) AND TITLE(S) OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE(S)



**Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion  
 Lower Tier Covered Transactions**

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***(Read instructions on page two before completing certification.)***

- A. The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency;
- B. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

ORGANIZATION NAME	PR/AWARD NUMBER OR PROJECT NAME
NAME(S) AND TITLE(S) OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE(S)	
SIGNATURE	DATE

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

### *Instructions for Certification*

- (1) By signing and submitting this form, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out on page 1 in accordance with these instructions.
- (2) The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the Department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension or debarment.
- (3) The prospective lower tier participant must provide immediate written notice to the person(s) to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
- (4) The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "lower tier covered transaction," "participant," "person," "primary covered transaction," "principal," "proposal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549, at 2 CFR Parts 180 and 417. You may contact the Department or agency to which this proposal is being submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.
- (5) The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this form that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it may not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the Department or agency with which this transaction originated.
- (6) The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this form that it will include this clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
- (7) A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the General Services Administration's System for Award Management Exclusions database.
- (8) Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
- (9) Except for transactions authorized under paragraph (5) of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the Department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

# Firesafe Program Closeout

As we finish closing out the rest of the inventory from our Firesafe Program, we are now allowing departments to use PPE grant funds on purchases. **Purchases made this way will be at 100% of the actual cost of the item(s)**, rather than the normal 90% cost-share.

We also currently have the remaining stock at 75% off, so please take a look at our [remaining stock](#) and see if there is anything your department could use!



# **Training Aids Guidelines**

## Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program

### **Responsibilities of the Fire Department Following Notice of Grant Approval:**

1. Purchase the approved item(s).
2. Submit for Reimbursement via [FireConnect](#), and upload the following supporting documents:
  - Proof of Payment
    - Copies of Signed Check(s)
    - Credit Card Receipt(s)
    - Paid Vendor Invoice(s) showing the last 4 digits of credit card used
    - Bank/Credit Card Statement(s) Showing the Purchase
3. Grants for fire/rescue equipment will expire **6 months** from the approval date. Extensions may be available upon request via [FireConnect](#).

### **Please Note:**

Equipment or services purchased prior to the award date are ineligible for grant assistance under this program.

### **Eligible Items:**

- Rescue Mannequins
- Smoke Machines
- Practice Fire Shelters
- Equipment Simulation Devices
- Electronic Projectors
- Computer (one per award)
- Subscription Training Services
- Training Manuals
- Training Videos
- Ready-made Forcible Entry or Ventilation Cut Props
- Television (one per award)

### **Ineligible Items:**

- Training Buildings or Drill Towers
- Conex Containers

If there is an item you wish to purchase that is not found on the list of eligible items, please complete the attached form to request consideration of the specific item.

Grant recipients are encouraged to share training resources locally/regionally to benefit the greatest number of trainees.

Training publications and videos may be purchased through the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association and other providers.

The Program will reimburse for the establishment of a fire publications and video training library. Fire publications and videos should be kept at a location that is accessible by county or regional fire departments.





# Request for Approval of Training Aid Item/Equipment

## Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program

*Submit this form only to request approval of an item that is not currently on the approved list.*

**Eligible Items:**

- Rescue Mannequins
- Smoke Machines
- Practice Fire Shelters
- Equipment Simulation Devices
- Electronic Projectors
- Computer (one per award)
- Subscription Training Services
- Training Manuals
- Training Videos
- Ready-made Forcible Entry or Ventilation Cut Props
- Television (one per award)

**Fire Department:**

**County:**

**List the item(s) for review:**

*Internal Use Only*

Item Description	Estimated Cost	Eligible	Ineligible

*Please attach supporting documents, such as a brochure or other material describing the item(s).*

***(This section must be certified by authorized Chief Officer or President)***

**(Required)** **APPLICANT CERTIFICATION:** I certify that the information contained in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I am duly authorized to certify this application on behalf of the fire department. I understand that knowingly making false or fraudulent statements or representations may result in program sanctions and/or criminal penalties.

Name: (print)

Title:

*Chief Officer or President*

Date:

***For Internal Use Only***

Request for approval of Training Aid item/equipment has been reviewed and an eligibility determination notated above.

Program Leader Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# **Dry Hydrant Guidelines**

## Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program

### **Responsibilities of the Fire Department Following Notice of Grant Approval:**

1. Equipment or services purchased prior to the award date are ineligible for grant assistance under this program.
2. Locate, purchase, and install the dry hydrant components and materials following notification of approval.
3. Grant assistance will be provided for purchasing dry hydrants or floating dry hydrant components and materials including the cost of hard suction hose and the purchase of a culvert.
4. Grant reimbursement is for materials only. The cost of labor and installation is not included. The receiving fire departments will assume responsibility for maintenance and upkeep of the hydrant, along with any charges for materials above the allotted grant amount.
5. A water usage agreement should be signed by each landowner that provides a water source.
6. Submit for Reimbursement via [FireConnect](#), and upload the following supporting documents:
  - Proof of Payment
    - Copies of Signed Check(s)
    - Credit Card Receipt(s)
    - Paid Vendor Invoice(s) showing the last 4 digits of credit card used
    - Bank/Credit Card Statement(s) Showing the Purchase
7. Texas A&M Forest Service will then issue a check for components and material cost, not to exceed \$1,200 per dry hydrant.
8. Grants for dry hydrants will expire **6 months** from the approval date. Extensions may be available upon request via [FireConnect](#).