Truck Chassis Guidelines

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.

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*	LARGE BRUSH TRUCK *Minimum Specs*	TANKER *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	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	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

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.

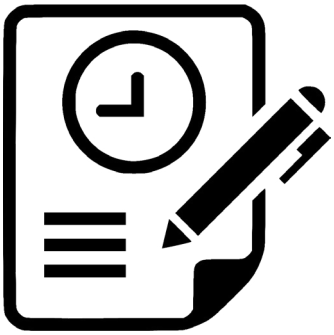
TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

Updated 2/23/2023

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

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.

Note:

- 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.

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)
- UTVs (see minimum required specs)

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.
- 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.

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

Updated 10/2/2024

Minimum Standards and Specs for Utility Vehicles

All UTVs funded under this program must have the following characteristics specifically intended for utility use. Golf carts, ATVs and other vehicles designed for recreation are not eligible.

- Equipped with an occupant protective system which includes an occupant protective structure, occupant restraints, occupant side retention devices, and handholds.
- Equipped with a minimum of two seats
- Intended to transport personnel and cargo
- Designed to travel on four or more wheels, two or four tracks, or combinations of four or more tracks and wheels
- Engine shall be a 4-cycle, gasoline, or diesel engine
- Rear box area shall have a minimum load capacity of 600 pounds.

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*
- *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.*

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

Updated 10/2/2024

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.

Please note: 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.

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.

Minimum Standards and Specs for Slip-On Units

Small Brush Truck *Design Minimums*	Large Brush Truck (2.5/5 Ton Military) *Design Minimums*	Water Tender *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	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	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

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*	LARGE BRUSH TRUCK *Minimum Specs*	TANKER *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	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	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.

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

Updated 10/2/2024

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

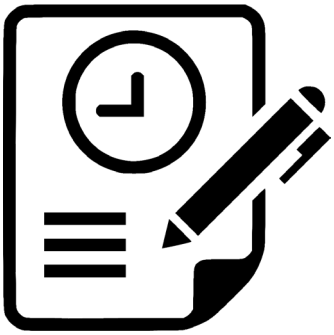
AIR COMPRESSOR

- 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

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.
- 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.

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.

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

Updated 10/2/2024

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:

Item Description	Estimated Cost	Eligible *Internal Use Only*	Ineligible *Internal Use Only*
		☐	☐
		☐	☐
		☐	☐
		☐	☐
		☐	☐

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: _____ Date: _____

Chief Officer or President

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: _____

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

Submit Form To 2604@tfs.tamu.edu

Updated 9/18/2024

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.

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*	LARGE BRUSH TRUCK *Minimum Specs*	TANKER *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	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	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

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.

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

Updated 2/23/2023

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

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 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 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.

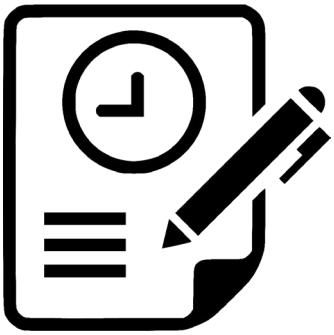
MINIMUM OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

- 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