

Special Announcement

Rural VFD Assistance Program (HB 2604)

The Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program will continue through fiscal year 2027, at an annual base budget of \$22 million.

The following changes are effective as of September 1st, 2025:

New Program Funding

The 89th Texas Legislature appropriated \$192 million in one-time funding to address unfunded grant requests in the program, specifically for those submitted on or before November 7, 2024. An additional \$44 million was also appropriated for the next two years to help the program keep pace with demand moving forward. More information regarding the plan for dispersing these funds can be found in the separate Special Announcement.

As we will be awarding a large number of unfunded grants, we expect this to lead to supply chain issues. If your department receives an award, we encourage you to be diligent in making your purchases. We will work to ensure more time is allotted by the legislature, however, it isn't a guarantee.

Regarding apparatus awards, for those submitted on or before November 7, 2024, we will be awarding the highest requested truck for each eligible department (i.e., a department that requested both a Large Brush Truck and a Small Brush Truck will be awarded the Large Brush Truck). If your department has not yet received a truck award in the second round, please be sure to apply. We do not currently have a date set for the opening of the third round, and therefore we are not accepting third round applications at this time.

Training Tuition Yearly Maximum Increase

The yearly training tuition cap per eligible fire department has been increased from \$15,000 to \$18,000.

Truck and Slip-on Maximum Allowable Increase; Removing CAFS Option

Changes have been made to the Water Tender, Large Brush Truck, Small Brush Truck, and Slip-on Unit categories. Previously these categories had an optional CAFS add-on. That optional add-on has been removed, and in its place, the maximum allowables for these categories have been increased.

Category	Maximum Allowable
Water Tender	\$300,000
Large Brush Truck	\$265,000
Small Brush Truck	\$165,000
Slip-on Unit (including FFP)	\$45,000

Cost-share Rate Change

All apparatus and equipment categories that were previously at a 90%/10% cost-share have been changed to a 95%/5% cost-share. Training Aids, Dry Hydrants, and FFP Slip-on Units will remain at 100%/0% cost-share.

Other Information/Reminders

Please be sure to always keep your department profile up to date on FireConnect. Beginning in FY27, a new verification process is planned to be in place. At that point, verification will be required for program eligibility, to ensure accurate and current department information for program participation.

Contact Us

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