

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY

2800 N. Lincoln Boulevard

Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4912

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Suzanne McCombs, suzanne.mccombs@ag.ok.gov, 405-421-3071

Oklahoma Forestry Services offers reimbursement grants to rural fire departments

Rural fire departments are encouraged to apply for 2017 Rural Fire Defense 80/20 Reimbursement Grants, which provide for equipment purchases and fire station construction. Fire departments in communities with populations of less than 10,000 are eligible to receive a grant and should apply through Oklahoma Forestry Services by September 1.

The grants provide reimbursement of up to 80% of the total amount of projects, with fire departments receiving reimbursement after the purchase or construction costs have been paid. A total of \$125,000 is available for the program this year and will be awarded in October. Departments can receive up to \$30,000 for fire department construction and up to \$20,000 for fire equipment purchases.

“Oklahoman’s rural fire departments do an excellent job of protecting and serving their communities,” said George Geissler, director, Oklahoma Forestry Services. “We are pleased that these grants are being funded again this year despite significant state budget cuts.”

The grants are authorized by Governor Mary Fallin, funded by the Oklahoma Legislature and administered by the Oklahoma Forestry Services, a division of Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry. Oklahoma’s Rural Fire Coordinators grade the applications and select the recipients.

Fire Departments which received 80/20 Reimbursement Grants last year include: Courtney Volunteer Fire Department Association; Hanna Rural Fire Association; Carselowey Community Volunteer Fire Department; Norris Volunteer Fire Department; Crowder Volunteer Fire Department; Corn Fire Department; Wichita Mountains Estates Fire Department; Tecumseh Volunteer Firefighters Association; Temple Volunteer Fire Department; Liberty Area Fire Protection Association; Sooner Volunteer Fire Department; Hooker Firefighters Association; Hominy Fire Department; Jennings Rural Firefighters Association; Preston Volunteer Fire Department; Fort Supply Fire Department and Rock Fire Department.

Applications and more information are available on the Oklahoma Forestry Services website, www.forestry.ok.gov/firegrants or call 405-522-6158.

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About Oklahoma Forestry Services

Oklahoma Forestry Services, a division of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, is committed to conserving, enhancing and protecting Oklahoma's 12.5 million acres of forests and woodlands. Since 1925 Oklahoma Forestry Services has worked with individuals and communities throughout the state to create resilient landscapes, fire-adaptive communities and provide wildfire response. Headquartered in Oklahoma City, the division also has regional offices in Goldsby, Broken Bow, Wilburton and Tahlequah. For more information, visit <http://www.forestry.ok.gov>.