

Special Announcement

Rural VFD Assistance Program (HB 2604)

The Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program will continue this coming fiscal year 2024, at an annual grant budget of **\$17 million**. Texas A&M Forest Service is also receiving **\$5 million in additional funding** for FY24 and FY25, which will be focused on funding more truck requests.

The following changes are effective as of September 1st, 2023:

Training Tuition Rates and Annual Maximum Increased

The reimbursement rate for Training tuition grant assistance has been increased to a maximum of **\$140 per day**, up to a maximum of **\$700 per trainee per school**. The annual maximum training tuition assistance for a department per fiscal year has also increased to **\$15,000**.

Eligible Item Added to Fire/Rescue Equipment Category

UTVs are now eligible for reimbursement under the Fire/Rescue Equipment Category (*minimum specifications will apply*).

New Apparatus Rating Component - Age of Fleet

There is a new rating component for apparatus requests, which takes into consideration the age of the equivalent apparatus being replaced (if applicable). This information is required on new apparatus requests, and must be updated on existing apparatus requests. To do this, log in to [FireConnect](#), open each apparatus request your department has on file, and edit the request to add this information. A video guide for this process can be found linked in the program description page on FireConnect ([and here on YouTube](#)).

Revisions to Emergency Grants

Declared State of Disaster grants will now follow the same item categories as Catastrophic Loss. Emergency grants will soon be integrated into FireConnect, but in the mean time, a PDF application for disaster grants will be available on our website, along with a list of active declared disasters. An announcement will follow the integration into FireConnect, along with guide videos to explain the new process.

Contact Us

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