

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FORESTRY

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Rural fire departments receive state funds

Rural Fire Departments across the state are receiving more than \$4,000 each in annual operational funds from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry. Fire Departments can utilize the grant funds to purchase items such as firefighting equipment, insurance premiums, equipment maintenance and personal protective equipment, things that many rural fire departments struggle to purchase.

The operational grant funds have been awarded to the state's rural fire departments since the 1980's and are intended to help them with the cost of their day-to-day expenses.

"Oklahoma's rural fire departments do an excellent job of protecting their communities, and these funds are intended to help them with their operational expenses," said State Forester George Geissler.

Oklahoma Forestry Services is the state's lead agency for wildland fire fighting and works with rural fire departments across the state to coordinate fire suppression efforts, provide training and improve fire capacity.

This year's funding is being provided to 857 fire departments, who qualified by serving communities with a population of less than 10,000 and by meeting some basic legal requirements. Legislatively passed and approved by Governor Fallin in House Bill 2242, these funds are administered by the Oklahoma Forestry Services. Rural fire departments are currently receiving their funds electronically as required by law.

For a complete list of the fire departments that are being awarded operational grants and for more information visit Oklahoma Forestry Services' website at www.forestry.ok.gov.

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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>.