

OKLAHOMA WILDLAND FIRE NOTES

OKLAHOMA FORESTRY SERVICES STAFF

at your service

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Questions?

Contact your local Rural Fire
Coordinator or Oklahoma
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forestry.ok.gov

OKLAHOMA 80/20 REIMBURSEMENT GRANTS OVERVIEW

What are Rural Fire 80/20 Reimbursement Grants?

Oklahoma's Rural Fire 80/20 Reimbursement Grant Program provides funding to rural fire departments, per 19 OS § 901.57. These grants are authorized by Governor Mary Fallin, funded by the Oklahoma Legislature, and administered by Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Forestry Services (OFS) through our Rural Fire Coordinators.

Grants are awarded to legal entities (cities, towns, fire departments or districts) with a population of less than 10,000 for rural fire department equipment purchases or construction. The grants provide reimbursement of 80% of the total amount of the project. Grant recipients receive reimbursement only after the purchase or construction costs have been paid by the recipient. No advance payments can be made. Recipients can only make purchases after their fire department has been officially awarded a grant and received a copy of the State Purchase Order issued by ODAFF.

How much funding is available?

The total amount available statewide in the program varies each year. Grants are awarded in all eleven districts of Oklahoma's rural fire defense program. The amount of awarded available in each district is based upon the total number of fire departments in the district.

Individual Department Award limits:

- Fire station construction - \$30,000 grant limit
- Fire equipment purchase - \$20,000 grant limit

What are the steps to applying for an 80/20 reimbursement grant?

1. Fill out an application. The application can be downloaded anytime from Oklahoma Forestry Services' website at www.forestry.ok.gov/firegrants
2. Send the application to your local Rural Fire Coordinator by close of business on **September 1**. The contact information for your rural fire coordinator is available online at www.forestry.ok.gov/rural-fire-defense-program.
3. The Rural Fire Coordinators will score each nomination and determine which departments receive grants.
4. OFS will notify all applicants around October 10, of whether their fire department will be awarded a grant.

If my fire department is awarded a grant, what happens?

If awarded an 80/20 grant, the recipient:

1. Receives notification of the award
2. Submits their Federal Employers Identification (FEI) number to Oklahoma Forestry Services
3. Receives a copy of their State Purchase Order from Oklahoma Forestry Services
4. Pays for the equipment or construction
5. Submits proof of purchase or payment to Oklahoma Forestry Services
6. Receives the reimbursement payment through electronic funds transfer.

How are grant recipients selected each year?

Grant applications are graded by the Rural Fire Coordinator in each Rural Fire District. Once the grants are graded, the applications with the highest point totals are provided grants until available funds are exhausted.