

TEXAS FOREST SERVICE PROGRAM ELEMENTS AND COST-SHARE RATES
Implementation Guidelines

4.2 TRAINING TUITION GRANT GUIDELINES FOR FIREFIGHTER TRAINING

The Texas Forest Service will make available grants for tuition for volunteer and paid firefighters in Texas to attend initial and recurrent training. Tuition grants will be made under the provisions of the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program (HB 2604 Program).

Tuition grants under this Program are subject to the following standards:

4.21 Eligibility

Only firefighters from departments qualifying for assistance under HB 2604 are eligible.

4.22 Approved Courses

Courses certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas, and/or the National Wildfire Coordinating Group are eligible. Courses leading to the following firefighter certifications and credentials are eligible:

- *Basic Structural Firefighting*
- *Basic Wildland Firefighting*

- *Intermediate Structural Firefighting*
- *Intermediate Wildland Firefighting*

- *Advanced Structural Firefighting*
- *Advanced Wildland Firefighting*

- *Incident Command System*
- *UWI*
- *Arson Investigation*
- *Driver/Operator*
- *First Responder/Emergency Care Attendant (ECA)*
- *Methods of Teaching*

Other courses in addition to those shown above may also be eligible. Most fire courses offered by the TEEEX ESTI are eligible, with some exceptions. Training leading to the EMT or Paramedic credential is not eligible.
All training courses must be taught within the State of Texas.

4.23 Approved Schools

Most fire schools administered or facilitated by the Texas Engineering Extension Service Emergency Services Training Institute (ESTI) are approved, which includes fire training schools at Texas A&M University and all TEEEX Area

TEXAS FOREST SERVICE PROGRAM ELEMENTS AND COST-SHARE RATES
Implementation Guidelines

schools. Most programs administered by state agencies and state universities are approved, provided they are certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection or the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association.

Most regional schools are approved, provided the curriculum is certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association, and/or the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

All other training schools and courses not leading to a certification by the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association, Texas Commission on Fire Protection, or qualifications under the National Wildfire Coordinating Group "Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide" will not be approved. If a course is not conducted by a state agency or university, it must be reviewed and approved in advance by the Texas Forest Service.

Registration fees for certain statewide conferences are eligible provided they are approved in advance by the Texas Forest Service.

4.24 Instructors and Training Facilities

All training must be conducted by a lead instructor holding the Texas Basic Instructor credential or the Texas Level II Instructor credential.

All training fields, classrooms, and training facilities should be certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection.

4.25 Other Approved Training

The Program will provide grant funds for the establishment of a fire publications and video training library. All publications and videos should be housed at a location accessible to all department members.

All publications and videos should be ordered through the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association, however, purchase through other providers is acceptable.

Grants are available for the purchase of electronic projectors as an item of Training Equipment. The maximum grant assistance is 75% of the actual cost not to exceed \$1000 in grant assistance.

The Program will provide reimbursement grants for registration fees for attendance at the following conferences:

- Industrial Fire World Annual Conference
- State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas Annual Conference
- Texas Association of Fire Educators Annual Conference
- Texas Fire Chiefs Association Annual Conference

TEXAS FOREST SERVICE PROGRAM ELEMENTS AND COST-SHARE RATES
Implementation Guidelines

4.26 Limitations

No funds are approved for reimbursement of transportation, meals, or lodging expense. However, dorm and meal card expenses at the TEEX Summer Municipal Fire School may be eligible for reimbursement, provided the charges are invoiced by TEEX. Federal VFA grant funds will be used to fund this room and meal card component. Applicants must be NIMS Compliant in order to qualify for federal VFA funds.

Grants for Training Libraries do not provide reimbursement for the purchase of electronic projectors, DVD players, computers or satellite-based subscription services.

Grants for Training Equipment cover only the purchase of electronic projectors. They do not provide reimbursement for the purchase of computers, external DVD players or projection screens.

Training tuition grants under this program will be provided up to a maximum of \$70 per day, not to exceed \$490 per trainee per school.

Training tuition grants are limited to a maximum of \$4,000 per department per school, except that the maximum allowable grant for the TEEX Summer Municipal Fire School is \$4,050.

The maximum amount of Training Tuition assistance a department may receive in a fiscal year (September through August) is \$10,000.

Written application for a Training Tuition grant must be received by the Texas Forest Service before the course start-date. An application received on or after the course start-date is not eligible for grant assistance.