

City of Copperas Cove Information Item No. 2

October 18, 2011

TIFMAS Grant Assistance Program

Contact – Jamey Piper, Division Chief of Training/EMS, 547-2514
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SUBJECT: Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) Grant Assistance Program.

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Copperas Cove Fire Department applied for a tuition assistant grant from the Texas Forest Service which administers the TIFMAS Grant Assistance Program. The tuition is to be used for training municipal firefighters in specialized wild land fire fighting techniques.

2. BACKGROUND/HISTORY

The Texas Forest Service began administration of a new grant program that allows for training and equipment grants with little or no matching funds required. The grant is only open to fire departments that do not qualify for the volunteer only grant program.

3. FINDINGS/CURRENT ACTIVITY

The Copperas Cove Fire Department applied for and was approved for a grant for wild land fire training. The grant will be used for tuition for a training class to be held here in our region November 14-18. The approval notification and documentation are attached.

4. FINANCIAL IMPACT

The City will receive a total of \$4,400 in revenue for the grant. There are no matching funds required for the grant. The grant expires on December 18, 2011.

T E X A S
FOREST SERVICE
The Texas A&M University System

5.4191

September 12, 2011

COPPERAS COVE FD
415 SOUTH MAIN
COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522

Case: 46

Dear Chief:

Your application for grant assistance under the **TIFMAS Grant Assistance Program** has been **APPROVED**. The following items are qualified for cost-share reimbursement:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Our Maximum Cost-share Payment (not to exceed actual cost)</u>
<u>TRAINING TUITION -</u>	
TIFMAS WILDLAND ACADEMY NOVEMBER 14-18 2011 130/190 20 TRAINEES @ \$220.00 EACH	\$4,400.00

This grant will expire on December 18, 2011

Please notify us if no one attends this training.

Congratulations! Please contact us if you need additional information.



Texas Forest Service

Cost-share assistance for Training Tuition grants will be capped at a maximum of \$12,000 per department per fiscal year (September 1 through August 31). Training Tuition grants are capped at a maximum of \$85 per trainee per day, a maximum of \$595 per trainee per school, and a maximum of \$6,000 per school per department.

TIFMAS Grant Assistance Program Guidelines For Training Tuition Grant Assistance

Responsibilities of the fire department following notice of grant approval:

In order for your department to receive reimbursement under the grant program, the documents listed below are required:

1. A copy of the certificate of completion for each student who attended.
2. A copy of your payment to the school (check(s) / credit card statements) or a receipt/invoice from the school.
3. Please fax to (936) 639-8138

Special Note:

Applications for Training Tuition grants must be received before the course start-date. Applications received on or after the course start-date are not eligible for a Training Tuition grant.

A training grant will expire on the following date:

Training Tuition	– 30 days after the completion date of training course or school
On-Line Training Tuition	– 3 months from the approval date

TIFMAS Grant Assistance Program Training Tuition Grant Guidelines for Firefighter Training

4.2 TRAINING TUITION GRANT GUIDELINES FOR FIREFIGHTER TRAINING

The Texas Forest Service will provide 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 TIFMAS Grant Assistance Program.

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

4.21 Eligibility

Only fire departments qualifying for assistance under the TIFMAS Grant Assistance Program 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, the Texas Fire Chief's Association, 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*
- *WUI*
- *Arson Investigation*
- *Driver/Operator*
- *First Responder/Emergency Care Attendant (ECA)*
- *Methods of Teaching*

- *Basic Fire Suppression*
- *Basic Aircraft Rescue Fire Suppression*
- *Basic Marine Fire Suppression*
- *Fire Inspector*
- *Fire Investigator*
- *Hazardous Materials Technician*
- *Driver/Operator-Pumper*

- *Fire Instructor*
- *Fire Officer*
- *Texas Fire Chiefs Academy*

Other courses in addition to those shown above may also be eligible.

Most fire courses offered by the TEEX 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 the Fireman's Training School at Texas A&M University and all TEEX Area schools.

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

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, the Texas Fire Chiefs 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, the Texas Fire Chiefs Association, 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 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

4.26 Limitations

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

Training Tuition grants under this program will be provided up to a maximum of \$85 per day, not to exceed \$595 per trainee per school.

Training tuition grants are limited to a maximum of \$6,000 per department per school.

The maximum amount of Training Tuition assistance a department may receive in a fiscal year (September through August) is \$12,000.00

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. If an application is faxed, the sender should call to confirm that the application was received by TFS.

4.27 TEEEX Fire Schools

Most fire training courses listed in the TEEEX Municipal Fire School and Industrial Fire School catalogs, and most fire training courses offered at TEEEX facilitated schools, may be eligible for training tuition grants. However, some courses may be disallowed, such as courses that lead to EMT, Paramedic, Law Enforcement Officer Certifications, and other non-fire related courses.

Grant reimbursement payments for tuition will be made directly to the recipient fire department.

Dorm lodging and meal card expenses at the TEEEX Summer Municipal Fire School may be eligible for reimbursement, provided the charges are invoiced by TEEEX, and provided the FD applicant is NIMS Compliant. Federal VFA grant funds may be used to fund this lodging and meal card component.