

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 SENATE BILL 602

By: Fields

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the Rural Fire Protection Program
8 Fund Act; amending 19 O.S. 2011, Section 901.56,
9 which relates to determining financial needs of rural
10 fire protection districts; clarifying statutory
11 language; determining rate of distribution; and
12 providing an effective date.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 2011, Section 901.56, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 901.56. A. The provisions of this section shall become
16 effective when funds are made available for such purpose. Upon the
17 availability of such funds, the ~~State~~ Oklahoma Department of
18 Agriculture, Food, and Forestry shall notify the coordinator of such
19 available funds.

20 B. For the purposes of this section "coordinator" means the
21 rural fire coordinator in each rural fire protection coordination
22 district as defined in Section 901.61 of this title.

23 C. Upon notification of the ~~State~~ Oklahoma Department of
24 Agriculture, Food, and Forestry pursuant to subsection A of this

1 section on or before the last day of June of each year that funds
2 are available for such purpose, the district coordinators shall
3 consider and determine the relative needs of participants for monies
4 in the Rural Fire Protection Program Fund. Participants shall
5 include incorporated cities under ten thousand (10,000) population
6 according to the latest Federal Decennial Census, towns, and legally
7 formed rural fire departments. Based upon the information available
8 to him, the coordinator shall certify to the Commissioner of
9 Agriculture the names of the incorporated cities, towns, and legally
10 formed rural fire departments which he determines are in need of
11 financial assistance from the Rural Fire Protection Program and the
12 amount required by each in accordance with the provisions of this
13 section. In making this determination and certification, the
14 coordinator shall consider the intent and purpose of the Rural Fire
15 Protection Program Fund Act. No incorporated city, town or legally
16 formed rural fire department shall receive monies distributed from
17 the Rural Fire Protection Program Fund merely for the purpose of
18 accumulation when such monies are not required to accomplish the
19 purposes of this section.

20 D. In making such determination of needs, the coordinator shall
21 first determine that each fire department to be certified has been
22 duly formed under the appropriate state statutes.

23 E. On or before the last day of August of each year, the ~~State~~
24 Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry shall

1 distribute the monies in the Rural Fire Protection Program Fund in
2 the manner provided by law.

3 F. Any amount so distributed from the Rural Fire Protection
4 Program Fund to any eligible participant shall be expended only for
5 the maintenance of its fire department, the purchase, construction,
6 maintenance, repair and operation of its fire stations, fire
7 apparatus and equipment, the purchase, rental, installation or
8 maintenance of fire hydrants, the payment of insurance premiums upon
9 fire stations, fire apparatus and equipment, and insurance premiums
10 for injuries or death of fire fighters, as otherwise provided by
11 law. Provided, however, that no monies shall be expended from the
12 fund for any purpose relating to the water supply systems of any
13 participant, nor for the improvement or construction of such systems
14 nor for any other appurtenances relating to the distribution or use
15 of such water supply system. Monies so distributed from the Rural
16 Fire Protection Program Fund to any eligible participant may also be
17 expended, in an amount not to exceed ten percent (10%) of the
18 allocated funds or the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) in
19 the aggregate during any period of one (1) year, whichever is
20 larger, for the expense of any fire fighters attending a certified
21 fire school.

22 G. No amount so distributed from the Rural Fire Protection
23 Program Fund to any eligible participant shall be expended or
24 obligated for the purchase of land or the construction of buildings

1 for fire stations unless all obligations previously incurred for
2 such purposes and to be paid from monies distributed from the Rural
3 Fire Protection Program Fund by such eligible participant have been
4 fully paid and satisfied. No monies from the fund shall be expended
5 or obligated for the construction of buildings for fire stations
6 unless the participant proposing to expend or obligate monies
7 distributed from the Rural Fire Protection Program Fund for that
8 purpose holds fee simple title, not encumbered by any lien, or holds
9 a lease for a period of not less than ten (10) years, with
10 provisions for renewal of the lease annually, to the land on which
11 it proposes to construct any such building. Provided, however, that
12 this provision shall not prohibit construction or location of a fire
13 station on land donated in whole or part to the participant for the
14 purpose, and use of Rural Fire Protection Program Fund monies for
15 such construction or location, where the donor has reserved right or
16 reversion of such land under stated conditions, if such use be
17 appropriate and reasonable.

18 H. Amounts so distributed from the Rural Fire Protection
19 Program Fund to any eligible participant shall be expended under the
20 direction of the chief of the fire department upon duly executed
21 vouchers approved as required by law. In no event shall any such
22 monies to be expended for any purpose which does not relate to the
23 permitted purposes specifically stated in this section.

24

1 I. Up to ten percent (10%) of the Rural Fire Protection Program
2 Fund may be distributed to eligible participants based on the total
3 number of fire runs or to pay for expenses associated with large
4 fires.

5 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

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