



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

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February 26, 2026

From: Delaware Forest Service
To: Delaware Volunteer Fire Departments
Attn: Grants Coordinator/Training Officers/Chiefs
Subject: 2026 Delaware Forest Service Equipment Grant Application/Training Packet

I am pleased to announce the 2026 Volunteer Fire Assistance Equipment Grant Program. The enclosed packet includes important time dated grant application material for your volunteer fire department. All Delaware Volunteer Fire Departments responding to rural wildfires and who represent a population of less than 10,000 are invited to apply for a 2026 Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) equipment grant. Applications for grant funds must be received by the Delaware Forest Service, no later than **December 31, 2026**. Awards shall be made within 7 business days so that awarded projects can begin. Please make note of the submission instructions at the bottom of the application. Priority will be given to those companies that have not received DFS Grant Funding within the past 3 years, had members attend the 2025-2026 (S-130/S-190) wildland fire classes and to those that have had members participate in the Delaware Forest Service's 2026 annual fire camp. No vehicles (trucks/UTV's/ATV's/Trailers), structural firefighting gear (turnout coats, hardhats, gloves, lights, rescue saws, etc.) can be purchased with this funding. Funding is for wildland firefighting ¾-1.5" forestry hose, wildland Nomex clothing, wildland hardhats, brush unit pumps/skids, and wildland fire hand tools. Chainsaws can be purchased with funding however they cannot be used/modified into rescue saws.

If you have any questions about the application process or what can be purchased, please feel free to contact me at (302) 698-4544 or at sam.topper@delawre.gov.

Sincerely,

Sam Topper
Wildland Fire Supervisor



**2026 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Application
State of Delaware Department of Agriculture Forest Service**

1. Contact Information:

Volunteer Fire Department Name:	
Project Lead:	
Mailing Address:	
Phone Number:	
Fax Number:	
Email:	
Dept. Federal EI#:	

2. Project Description:

Project Name:	
Project Start Date:	
Project Completion Date: <i>Must be completed by December 31st 2026</i>	
Total Amount Requested: <i>Cannot exceed \$4,500.00</i>	
Total Project Amount:	

Description: *Please describe the scope of work for the proposed project in the area below and how it aligns with our goals outlined in the cover page.*

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3. Match Summary: *Match must take place during the course of the project*

Match Description: <i>Please describe how match will be generated towards this project. Match can be cash and/or In-Kind services towards the project you are requesting funding for.</i>	
Cash Match Amount:	
In-Kind Match Amount: <i>Volunteer rate is \$34.79 per hour</i>	
In-Kind Match Volunteer Hours:	

6. Signature Page: *Please provide a signature, date and contact number for the positions below.*

Project Lead: <i>Must be the project contact</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
Department Chief: <i>Must be a council official other than the Mayor and project lead.</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>

Must be received by December 31, 2026
Delaware Forest Service Wildland Fire Program
Subject: VFA Grant Application
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Dover, DE 19901
(302) 698-4544
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