

RESOLUTION TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR  
THE TEXAS RURAL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS rural unincorporated communities served by Volunteer Fire Departments in Texas depend on them for a first line of defense for safety and many emergencies including: fires; medical emergencies; medical incidents, vehicle accidents, terrorist and active shooter events, natural disasters, hazardous material incidents, water rescue emergencies, and other general public service calls. WHEREAS small communities especially those with populations under 10,000 typically rely solely on all volunteer fire departments for emergencies. See [www.NVFC.org](http://www.NVFC.org)

WHEREAS volunteer fire departments in Texas do not receive direct funding from the State. The State of Texas does provide some grant money through The Texas Rural VFD Assistance Program for the acquisition of firefighting vehicles, fire and rescue equipment, protective clothing, dry-hydrants, computer systems and fire fighter training, which is significant and much needed. However, The Texas A & M Forest Service reported experiencing demand in excess of \$200 million in outstanding requests while current funding was \$16.2 million dollars a year. See <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/RuralVFDAssistanceProgram/>

WHEREAS typical rural volunteer fire department fire trucks and equipment are decades old. A new fire pumper truck costs between \$150,000 to \$400,000; a ladder truck costs from \$400,000 to \$750,000; advanced life support equipment costs from \$10,000 to \$30,000. See [www.NVFC.org](http://www.NVFC.org). This reliance on overused equipment places fire fighters at an increased risk to their safety and compromises the safety of the public.

WHEREAS rural volunteer firefighters lack significant sources of pressurized water to combat fires. Thus, the fire trucks must make multiple trips back to the water station to refill and return to the fire. This requires more trucks and more volunteers. As a result, multiple volunteer fire departments from other districts are called in to assist.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Legislature recognize the vital need of the rural volunteer fire departments and fully fund the Texas Rural VFD Assistance Program to meet the outstanding requests.

Adopted by the \_\_\_\_\_ County Republican Party Texas Executive Committee on the \_\_\_\_ day of of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024. Signed by: