

Federal Excess Personal Property Program

Ohio's Carroll County Volunteer Fire Department Converts Military Truck

The Challenge

Most volunteer fire departments spend the biggest share of their limited budgets on equipment to battle structural fires. Ohio's volunteer fire departments also respond to wildland fires, often arriving on the fire scene in personal vehicles or structural engines. The lack of equipment specifically designed for wildland fires can hamper firefighting and place firefighters at greater personal risk. Many fire departments need four-wheel-drive wildland fire engines.

The Solution

Thanks to the Department of Defense Firefighter Property (FFP) Program and the Forest Service's Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) Program, excess military trucks are made available for States to convert to wildland fire engines. The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Program offers volunteer fire departments 50/50 matching grants to help offset the cost of retrofitting the trucks for wildland service. In the Northeastern United States, the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry of the Forest Service (NA S&PF) administers the VFA Program. NA S&PF also provides the States with technical support, advice, and assistance.

Resulting Benefits

The Carroll County, Ohio, Volunteer Fire Department acquired a four-wheel-drive pickup truck at no cost to them via the FFP and FEPP Programs. They retrofitted the truck and installed a water-handling unit using a VFA Program 50/50 matching grant. For a local investment of just \$5,000, the department added a badly needed engine to its wildland firefighting arsenal. Without the FFP, FEPP, and VFA programs, the county would probably not have had the means to acquire a truck.

"The Firefighter Property Program enables us to enhance the services we can provide to support Ohio's volunteer fire departments for their response to wildland fires."

*—Rick Maier, FEPP/FFP Program Coordinator,
Ohio Department of Natural Resources*



A four-wheel-drive pickup had an "extreme makeover" from excess military vehicle to wildland firefighter. The total cost to Ohio's Carroll County Volunteer Fire Department was just \$5,000!

Sharing Success

Other Northeastern Ohio volunteer fire departments have become more active in the FFP program, due in part to Carroll County's success in acquiring and adapting equipment for wildland firefighting. Department volunteers saw that participation in the FFP Program, along with some creativity on the part of local staff, could yield much-needed equipment at an affordable price.



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