

# Delaware Forest Service awards volunteer fire grants



Hartly Volunteer Fire Company Deputy Chief James Read (at left) and Chief James Fox (right) received a ceremonial check for \$4,196 from Delaware's assistant state forester Kyle Hoyd (center). Hartly's grant will help it purchase wildfire equipment and tools.



From left, Michael Schusteritsch, 2nd Assistant Chief at Middletown's Volunteer Hose Company (27), accepts a ceremonial check for \$4,500 from the Delaware Forest Service's James Dowd. The grant will help purchase wildfire equipment and tools.

**Contact:** Kyle Hoyd  
Wildland Fire Program  
[kyle.hoyd@delaware.gov](mailto:kyle.hoyd@delaware.gov)

DOVER, Del. – The Delaware Forest Service's [Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program](#) has awarded more than \$18,000 to six volunteer fire departments to help boost their capability and readiness to respond to wildfires.

“Delaware's volunteer fire companies (VFC's) are vital to the Delaware Forest Service because they provide much of the manpower and resources to fight wildfires in the state. The VFA grant program offers funding to fire companies for expenses such as repairing pumps and skids on brush units and providing wildland fire tools and personal protective

equipment (PPE). In addition to this grant program, the Delaware Forest Service also maintains a supply cache for wildland fire tools and forestry hose at its state forests, which helps fire companies swap out used tools at no cost,” said Kyle Hoyd, Delaware Forest Service’s assistant forestry administrator. “We hope to continue our working relationship with local fire companies throughout Delaware by continuing to provide technical, educational, and financial support.

The VFA Grant program is designed to help volunteer fire companies underwrite the acquisition cost of pumps, hoses, and equipment to respond to and suppress wildfires. Since its inception, more than \$350,000 has been awarded to enhance wildfire response in the First State.

### **2020 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants**

<b>Volunteer Fire Company</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Award</b>
Volunteer Hose Company (27)	Middletown	New Castle	\$4,500
Farmington Volunteer Fire Co. (47)	Farmington	Kent	\$1,100
Hartly Volunteer Fire Co. (51)	Hartly	Kent	\$4,196
Laurel Fire Department (81)	Laurel	Sussex	\$3,740
Millsboro Volunteer Fire Co. (83)	Millsboro	Sussex	\$3,816
Selbyville Volunteer Fire Co. (88)	Selbyville	Sussex	\$1,510
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,862</b>