Texas A&M Forest Service requests the 4% reduction of $3.4 million (biennium) be restored to provide needed support for building the firefighting capacity of Texas volunteer fire departments and the Texas A&M Forest Service. If unrestored, the reduction would result in the following:

**Texas’ Wildland Firefighting Capacity**

- A reduction of $858,930 in GR Fund 001 equates to approximately 4 D5 dozers
- At beginning of FY16, we had 38 undersized, aged, unsafe dozers needing replacement
  - We are currently replacing units that are 25-30 years old (JD 450’s purchased in late 80s and early 90s)
  - We replace approximately 10 units per year

**Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program (Fund 5064)**

- $2,405,012 reduction would eliminate 10 fire truck grants and 80 fire and rescue equipment grants
- Currently there is $187.1 million in unfunded requests
  - $144.4 million in requests for fire trucks
  - $12.6 million in requests for fire and rescue equipment

**Rural Volunteer Fire Department Insurance Program (Fund 5066)**

- A reduction of $117,200 would eliminate 44 grants for workers comp/death and disability coverage for 528 firefighters

**State Funding**

- Fund 5064 reductions are offset by revenue reductions
- Fund 5066 reductions are added to unappropriated reserves

**Requested Amount (Biennial)**

$3,381,142 million

**Objective**

With the restoration of the 4% reduction, Texas A&M Forest Service will replace aging and undersized dozers and transports and provide volunteer fire department grants to help meet significant outstanding requests.
The Impact of a 4% Reduction in Funding

- 4% reduction in the Texas A&M Forest Service budget reduces firefighting capacity in Texas
  - Disables the replacement of 4 firefighting dozers
  - Causes the loss of 10 fire truck grants for volunteer fire departments
  - Reduces 44 workers’ compensation death and disability grants
  - Cuts 80 fire and rescue grants to volunteer fire departments
  - Cuts 80 fire and rescue grants to volunteer fire departments

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What is Texas A&M AgriLife?
It’s a family of agencies that brings world-class research, education and service to Texans as a part of the Texas A&M University System.