

IFA TIRE PROGRAM Q & A

What is the Tire Program? House file 603 allows Iowa volunteer firefighters the opportunity to purchase a set of new tires using the state's discounted rate every 3 years.

When does this go into effect: July 1, 2023

Who can utilize the tires? If authorized by the fire chief, the enrolled volunteer firefighter may purchase four vehicle tires every three years through the fire department or municipality's contract to purchase tires under the state discount authority. The bill defines a volunteer emergency services provider as a volunteer fire fighter, a person performing the functions of an emergency medical care provider who is not paid full-time. The firefighter must have served at least three full years of duty to receive this benefit.

What vehicle can I put these tires on? The bill defines a "vehicle" as a personal vehicle owned by the volunteer firefighter used to respond to a fire.

Where can I purchase tires? The firefighter can choose the tire shop of their preference to purchase the tires. **Some tire shops may not deal with government sales so you might have to go with a second choice.**

What kind of tires can I purchase? The purchase can only include passenger or light truck tires and tires cannot be purchased for commercial use. The discount only applies to tires that are under the state contract. There are only certain tires on the state contract and this contract will cover all vehicles but not every size or style of tire out there.

How often can I purchase tires? This bill provides that a volunteer emergency services provider shall be authorized to purchase no more than one set (four tires) every 3 years under a master contract for tires established by the department of administrative services (DAS).

What costs am I responsible for? The volunteer firefighter shall be responsible for all related costs that are associated with the purchase of the set of tires. The firefighter will have to pay the invoice in full at the time of completion. The invoice must include all tires (at the discounted rate) parts, labor and taxes.

What information does the tire shop need? You will need the department Fire Chief to sign off on the authorization form to give to the tire shop. For the tire shops, you can treat this as any other net state or government sale. For this to work it must be billed under the municipality the fire department is under. The firefighter will have to pay the invoice in full at the time of completion. The invoice must include all tires (at the discounted rate) parts, labor and taxes.

How does a chief authorize this purchase: The authorization must be on Fire Department or Municipality letterhead. There is an example on the Iowa Firefighters Association web site under the legislation tab.

What is going to stop this from being abused? The Fire Chief is responsible for signing off on the firefighter to purchase tires. This form is to be filed in the firefighters personnel file at the Fire Chiefs office.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me and I will help any way I can.

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