




Missouri Department of dnr.mo.gov

NATURAL RESOURCES

Michael L. Parson, Governor

Carol S. Comer, Director

**MEMORANDUM
2020-013**

DATE: June 2, 2020
TO: All Soil and Water Conservation Districts
FROM:  Jim Boschert, Environmental Manager
Soil and Water Conservation Program
SUBJECT: Funding for Technical Equipment

In September 2014, the Department of Natural Resources' Soil and Water Conservation Program (SWCP) entered into a contribution agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This agreement allowed the soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) to hire a Field Office Service Area (FOSA) shared employee for each of the 30 FOSAs in the state.

Funds received from the NRCS are placed into the federal appropriation portion of the SWCP budget. Similar to last fiscal year, there are sufficient funds in the federal fund account to provide each SWCD with an additional allocation for their technical grant. This year each SWCD will receive \$6,163. This will be the last year these funds will be provided. These funds are to be used for technical assistance related to soil and water conservation. Attached is a list of eligible items and accessory items. These items are the only items that can be purchased with these funds. None of the eligible items can be sold or rented to landowners.

All items purchased, or training taken, must be in support of technical assistance in SWCDs. SWCDs should consider purchasing from state contract if applicable. SWCD boards should review the attached list and determine which item(s) will be the most beneficial to the SWCD for technical work. The SWCP encourages SWCD boards and staff to thoroughly research each item for purchase, especially the electronic items (iPad/tablets, GPS units, Trimble units), to make sure they are compatible with current SWCD and/or NRCS computer equipment. Some of these items include annual costs such as maintenance, upgrades, insurance, and data plans. Please be sure sufficient funds will be available through state and/or local sources for the total costs of items purchased.

If SWCDs previously paid expenses from their local funds for an eligible item, the SWCD cannot reimburse their local funds for the expense. The SWCD has until the end of fiscal year 2021 (June 30, 2021.) to spend these funds. For any unused Technical Grant funds from fiscal year 2018 or 2019, the districts have until June 30, 2021 to spend those funds as well. These funds can be combined with Administrative Funds to purchase any of the items listed on the attachment. As mentioned earlier this is the last year these funds will be provided to the SWCD.

If you have any questions, please contact your district coordinator. Thank you.

Attachment:

Eligible Items for Technical Grant

Eligible Items for Technical Grant

(All items on this list are for SWCD use only. These items cannot be sold or rented to landowners.)

Camera	To assist SWCD staff to document state cost-share practices during construction, at completion, and throughout maintenance of practices. Eligible items are camera, case, and SD cards.
Computer Monitor	To allow SWCD staff a second monitor to utilize Citrix, which will expedite planning and mapping of state cost-share practices. Eligible item is computer monitor.
Dibble Bar	To assist SWCD staff with demonstrating free planting. Eligible item is a dibble bar.
GPS Unit	To assist SWCD staff with designing state cost-share practice in the field. Eligible items are GPS unit, case, battery charger, external antenna, and a battery.
iPad	To assist SWCD staff with designing state cost-share practices in the field. Eligible items are iPad, case, external antenna, data plan, software updates, stylus pen, and iPad holder for truck or UTV.
Printer Cartridges	To be used with state ITSD provided printers for maps and state cost-share documents. Eligible items are printer cartridges for the state ITSD provided printers.
Smart Phone	To enhance contact with SWCD staff while they are in the field and to document cost-share practices. Eligible items are phone, case, data plan, and monthly fees.
Soil Probe/Soil Ring	To assist SWCD staff with collecting data needed for cost-share practices. Eligible items are soil probe and soil rings.
Surveying Equipment	To assist SWCD staff with surveying structural practices built with state cost-share funds. Eligible items are level (regular or laser), tripod, case, cam-line measuring tape, clinometer, flags, surveying stakes, survey marking paint, flag shooter, stake/flag carrier, and surveying rod.
Technical Training	To provide SWCD staff with training for technical aspects of their work. Eligible items (registration, hotel, meals, and mileage) are costs associated with SWCD staff attending technical training provided by Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation Program, or other approved entities. Conferences such as MASWCD Training Conference, Women in Ag, Soil Health and No-till Conferences are not eligible training.

Trimble Unit	To assist SWCD staff with surveying structural practice built with state cost-share funds. Eligible expenses are Trimble unit, data collector, range pole and brackets, dome, service contract, data card, monthly service, case, charger, batteries, and software.
UTV and Trailer	To transport SWCD staff to remote farm locations to document potential sites for state cost-share practices, and to review construction, completion, and maintenances of practices. Eligible items are UTV, trailer, insurance, license fees, helmet, and UTV safety training.
Water Flow Meter	To allow SWCD staff to assist landowners with determining current water supplies for planned cost-share practices such as grazing and irrigation systems. Eligible item is the water flow meter.
Well Camera	To allow SWCD staff to determine well condition/depth for the N351 Well Decommissioning cost-share practice. Eligible items are well camera and case.