



Office of the Governor of Oklahoma
2300 N Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

April 7, 2025

To the Honorable J. Kevin Stitt,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations with a collective interest in public and property safety in the State of Oklahoma, we write to express our deep concern over recent comments questioning the continued existence of Oklahoma Forestry Services (OFS). We strongly urge you to reconsider any effort to eliminate or diminish this agency's response capability, which has served as a critical partner and force multiplier for fire departments across Oklahoma.

OFS has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with local firefighters during large-scale, complex wildfire incidents for decades, bringing with them specialized equipment, operational expertise, and a depth of experience that cannot be replicated at the local level. Their rapid deployment and coordination during the recent March 14-16th fires helped prevent significant loss of property and ensure the health of our residents.

The role of the Department of Forestry extends far beyond wildfire suppression. Their work in fire prevention, land management and emergency response coordination is vital to protecting Oklahoma's rural and urban communities alike. Through joint training, deployment opportunities, and technical support, OFS has helped firefighters across the state expand our readiness and improve our response posture in an increasingly volatile fire environment. This collaboration has not only protected lives and property, but also strengthened public trust in our collective emergency response infrastructure.

To suggest disbanding the very agency that supports these efforts is troubling. While we understand the importance of fiscal efficiency, dismantling OFS would not reduce costs—it would shift the burden to already strained local departments and jeopardize coordinated wildfire management across the state.

We urge you to work directly with Oklahoma's fire service leadership—career, volunteer, municipal, and rural alike—to strengthen the wildfire mission of Oklahoma Forestry Services. Eliminating this agency would be a step backward, leaving our state more vulnerable in a time of growing wildfire risk.

We remain committed to those who serve on the front lines, but we cannot do it alone. Ensuring a well-supported and coordinated approach is the best path forward to safeguard lives, property and the natural landscapes of Oklahoma. With your leadership, we can build a stronger, safer, and more prepared Oklahoma.

Oklahoma State Firefighters Association Board of Directors



Local/Volunteer Fire Departments: Brooken, Bengal, Blackgum Caney, Chattanooga, Chimney Rock, Coweta, Davidson, Drumright, Eagletown, Fairland, Fort Supply, Frederick, Frontier, Greasy, Haworth, Hydro, Idabel, Illinois, Keystone, Lamont, Lincoln County Fire Chiefs, Lequire, Lexington, Mannsville, Morris, Post Mountain, Swan Lake, McCurtain County, Oak Grove, Flower Mound Volunteer, Ringold, Sapulpa, Sherwood, Southside, Tamaha, Taylor Ferry, Tiger Mountain, Tom, Tuttle, Whitefield