

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry recently announced that the Skiatook Fire Department has been awarded a \$732 grant to fund continued improvements. The grants are administered through the Department of Agriculture's Rural Fire Protection Matching Grant Program and assist fire departments in upgrading equipment and facilities. State Sen. Eddie Fields said the grant would help the department to continue protecting the community. "Our firefighters place themselves in danger to keep our families safe, and they should be commended for their hard work," said Fields, R-Wynona. "I have always believed the state must make a commitment to support rural fire protection, and I'm pleased the Skiatook Fire Department will be receiving this grant. The grant will fund critical equipment upgrades that will allow the department to continue providing valuable service to the community." The Agriculture Department's matching grant program provides fire departments with an 80 percent reimbursement of their qualifying expenses. The program was established to provide assistance to rural fire departments in all 77 counties.