

OKLAHOMA Salary & Operating Expense Claims CONSERVATION Training Takeaways

September 2024

This training resource is designed to help conservation district directors and employees stay informed of key points discussed in recent web-based training. The document should be listed on the district's meeting agenda for discussion and review.

Regular Reimbursement Claims

- Submitted monthly
- Includes reimbursement for the following expenses: salaries, operating, copier, and longevity
- Does not include: election expenses, special project expenses, cost-share, O&M, etc.
 - The claim process for these items may vary from what is outlined here; contact the OCC division responsible for guidance on their specific process/requirements

Resources for Completing a Regular Reimbursement Claim

- To help make assembling a regular reimbursement claim as easy as possible and to insure everything is complete before submitting the claim to OCC for payment, several resources are available:
 - o Reimbursement Claim checklist
 - o 2-Digit Item Code list
 - FY Allocation Report

Tips for Completing the OSF-3 Claim Form

- Signatures, both claimant and the notary, are original blue ink
- Amounts being claimed on the form match the backup documents
- The correct 2-digit item code is used for each item listed
 - This will result in the items being listed in the proper ascending order, with salaries listed first followed by operating expenses

Before Assembling the Claim, Verify

- Take time to verify that all backup documentation is complete to reduce the chances of your claim being returned or amended. This includes
 - Payroll worksheet for each employee is complete and has original blue ink signatures
 - Timesheet for each employee is complete and has original blue ink signatures
 - Operating expense items each have a copy of the invoice or bill with required information and notations
 - A copy of the bank statement showing the debit of each operating expense item is provided; statement copy includes all required information
 - 941 proof of payment coincides with the payroll and timesheet month being reimbursed
- The payroll worksheet month and timesheet month must always match. The 941 receipt should be for the same month or for no later than the 15th of the month following the month being reimbursed.
- Only operating expense items must appear on the bank statement for reimbursement; salary items do not have to be listed on the statement.
- OCC's goal is to pay salary items as efficiently as possible. Incorrect operating expense items will be removed from the claim so salary items are not held up.

Tips for Assembling the Claim

- Items should be in the following order:
 - o OSF-3 Claim Form
 - Payroll Worksheet(s)
 - Timesheet(s)
 - Copy of invoice(s) or bill(s) for each operating expense item
 - Bank statement
 - o 941 receipt
- For the most efficient processing of the claim
 - All items in the claim should be on only standard full-size sheets of paper (8.5x11)
 - No highlighting should be used on the claim form or documents; colored ink is acceptable
 - Only use paperclips, no staples
 - Mark out QR codes/barcodes
- Do not include the following items with the claim
 - State withholding payment confirmations or reports
 - 941 quarterly reports
 - Copies of checks for bills paid
 - Copies of preclaim checks/forms
 - Any other items not directly related to the claim
- Always keep a full copy of any claim submitted for payment. In the event a claim is lost or damaged, OCC will request the copy to process payment.

Unpaid or Incorrectly Paid Claims

- Claim payments should be received within a maximum of 4 weeks, though usually the remittance is much quicker.
- If a claim has been submitted, but remains unpaid after 4 weeks, contact the Commission as soon as possible to determine why it has not been paid.
- If a claim was paid, but the remittance differs from what was originally submitted, please provide OCC with the following information so we can determine where the variance occurred:
 - Voucher/claim number
 - Date of the claim payment
 - Claim amount paid
 - Copy of the OSF-3 form and documents you submitted
 - o OSF-3 Claim Form

Additional Resources

- OCC District Services Division
- Area District Coordinators
- Forms & Checklists available on the OCC website
- Training Presentation PDF available on the OCC website