

Ohio Alternative Fuel Vehicle Conversion Grant Program

Information Session

January 25, 2018

Updated February 7, 2018



Today's Presentation

Highlights only

- Based on weight, not vehicle class
- Getting costs broken out in vendor quotes
- Conversions: not violating anti-tampering laws
- Submitting applications

Slides and Q&A summary from today's information session and the conference calls on Feb. 8 and 27 will be posted to the AFV grant program website:

<http://epa.ohio.gov/oeo/EnvironmentalEducation.aspx#131365076-alternative-fuel-vehicle-grants>



Most Important Takeaway

- Read the application guidelines carefully before filling out the grant application form.

Eligible AFVs

- Registered in Ohio (any county) for operation on public highways
- Runs on alternative fuels
- GVWR of at least 26,000 pounds
- Includes bi-fueled or dual-fueled vehicles with a motor that can run on both alternative fuel and on gasoline or diesel fuel

Eligible NEW AFV

- Purchased from an OEM, automobile retailer, or after-market conversion facility
- Purchaser is first person to purchase the vehicle not for resale
- Purchased for use in business
- Alternative fuel technology meets U.S. EPA or California emission standards.

Meeting U.S. EPA or California Standards for New Vehicles

- Links in application guidelines section 4.2
- Copy of U.S. EPA Certificate of Conformity for the engine model name and year of the new vehicle, from the OEM or vendor; or
- Executive Order number of new vehicle engine certifications issued by California Air Resources Board (ARB)
- Enter in fleet data spreadsheet

Getting a Detailed Vendor Quote for New Vehicles: Eligible Parts and Equipment

- Used for storage of alternative fuel
- Used for delivery of alternative fuel to the motor
- Used for exhaust of gases from the combustion of alternative fuel
(Fuel tank, fuel delivery system, exhaust)

Not Eligible

- The motor/engine
- Engine management software
- Brakes/axles/suspension
- Transmission
- Alternator/compressor

Examples

- Sample quote included \$4,500 for “propane engine choice.” Too vague, please ask vendor to break out.
- Sample quote included upcharge for “stainless steel exhaust option.” That’s not the cost of the exhaust system. Please ask vendor to break out the cost of the exhaust system.
- Vendors are encouraged to talk with Alan Harness about what should be included in the quote.

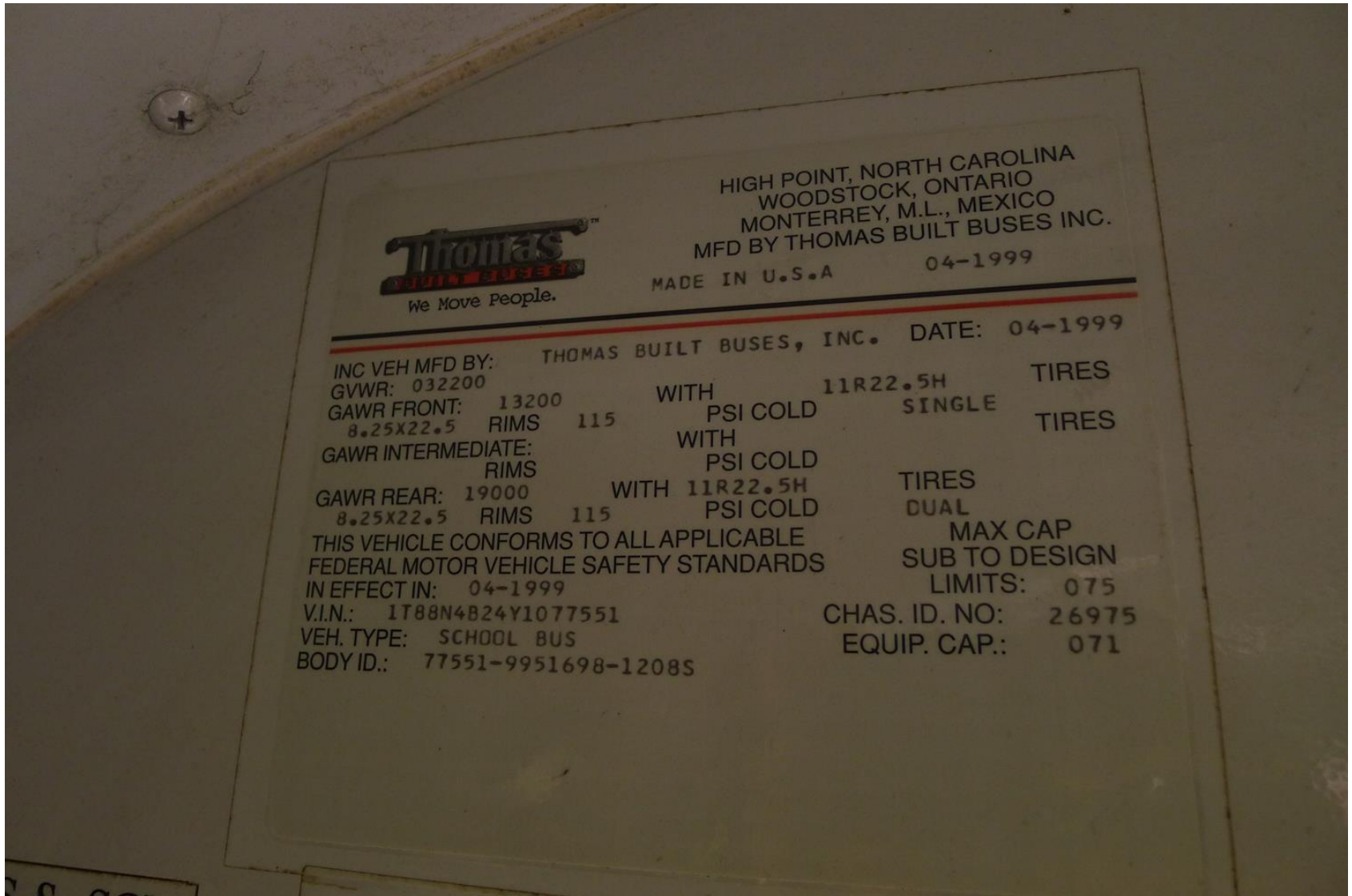
Project Scope Description when Applying for New Vehicles

- Be sure to discuss all six bulleted items listed in section 4.2 of the application guidelines (or all seven bulleted items if purchasing a bi-fueled or dual-fueled vehicle).
- Applications that do not discuss all items may be deemed incomplete and ineligible for funding.

Determining Eligibility of Vehicles by Weight

- Be sure your proposed new vehicles and existing vehicles (for conversions) have a GVWR of 26,000 pounds or more (not 25,999!).
- For **existing vehicle conversions**, plan to submit documentation from the OEM or retailer it was purchased from, and/or the vehicle's equipment nameplate confirming that the GVWR is at least 26,000 pounds.

Sample Vehicle Nameplate



HIGH POINT, NORTH CAROLINA
WOODSTOCK, ONTARIO
MONTERREY, M.L., MEXICO
MFD BY THOMAS BUILT BUSES INC.
MADE IN U.S.A 04-1999

INC VEH MFD BY: THOMAS BUILT BUSES, INC. DATE: 04-1999
GVWR: 032200
GAWR FRONT: 13200 WITH 11R22.5H TIRES
8.25X22.5 RIMS 115 PSI COLD SINGLE
GAWR INTERMEDIATE: WITH TIRES
RIMS PSI COLD
GAWR REAR: 19000 WITH 11R22.5H TIRES
8.25X22.5 RIMS 115 PSI COLD DUAL
THIS VEHICLE CONFORMS TO ALL APPLICABLE
FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARDS
IN EFFECT IN: 04-1999 MAX CAP
SUB TO DESIGN
LIMITS: 075
V.I.N.: 1T88N4B24Y1077551 CHAS. ID. NO: 26975
VEH. TYPE: SCHOOL BUS EQUIP. CAP.: 071
BODY ID.: 77551-9951698-12085

Existing Vehicle Nameplate Bar Codes:

Use a bar code reader app to pull up the documentation showing the GVWR, to submit with your grant application



Please do not just send a photo of the bar code. If Ohio EPA can't pull up the GVWR documentation from a poor quality photo or damaged bar code, your application would not be fundable



Conversions

- Any change to the manufacturer's original vehicle or engine design is a potential violation to the Clean Air Act.
- U.S. EPA set up protocols for conversion manufacturers to demonstrate that emission controls in the converted vehicle will continue to perform properly.
- Work with a reputable converter ("qualified system retrofitter") to select certified conversion systems and avoid tampering violations.

Meeting U.S. EPA Standards for Conversions

- Links in application guidelines section 4.3
- Identify U.S. EPA “Conversion Exhaust Certificate Number” for **new** vehicle conversions (less than 2 years old); or
- Identify U.S. EPA “Conversion Test Group Number” for **used** (“intermediate age”) vehicle conversions
- Enter number in fleet data spreadsheet

Meeting California Standards for Conversions

- Link in application guidelines section 4.3
- Identify California ARB Executive Order number for alternative fuel retrofit (conversion) systems
- Enter Executive Order number in fleet data spreadsheet

Project Scope Description when Applying for Conversions

- Be sure to discuss all seven bulleted items listed in section 4.3 of the application guidelines (or all eight bulleted items if converting to a bi-fueled or dual-fueled vehicle).
- Applications that do not discuss all items may be deemed ineligible for funding.

Leasing Companies

- Strongly recommend applying jointly with the eventual lessee in order to include a letter addressing the commitments required in the certification statement.
- A certification statement must be signed by the end user before reimbursements will be approved.

Carefully read the certification statement before you sign!

- Vehicle is eligible, complies with program requirements
- Will maintain new or converted vehicle for five years from date of delivery/installation
- Of the total number of miles to be driven, at least half will be within state of Ohio
- Will use only compatible fuels

Fleet Data Spreadsheet for New Vehicles

- For new vehicles: Adjusted purchase price is the grant-eligible components, NOT the new vehicle purchase price. Grant award would be the lesser of 50% of the amount listed in this column, or \$25,000 per vehicle.
- Last three columns are shaded. Do not fill these in when applying. These are listed to show you what you will fill in later when you are ready to request reimbursement.

Fleet Data Spreadsheet for Vehicle Conversions

- For the Cost of Conversion, enter the grant eligible components, NOT the total conversion cost. Grant award would be the lesser of 50% of the amount listed in this column, or \$25,000 per vehicle

Submitting Applications via Email Attachments to derg@epa.ohio.gov

- Applications will not be accepted before 8:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, March 20, 2018.** (Date pushed back two weeks to allow applicants and vendors more time)
- System should handle expected volume of applications.
- Recommend that you compile your application and try emailing it to a friend the day before to check the file size.

Application File Size

- Please combine application materials into a single .pdf file.
- If file size is too large for your system to email (more than ~5 MB), it is permissible to submit the primary application first, and then submit supplemental files in separate emails that must be received within 24 hours.
- Follow instructions in section 3.1 of application guidelines.

Checking Status of Your Application

- You will receive an email confirmation of receipt within one business day – please do not call the same day to check.
- Ohio EPA will regularly post and update a list of pending applications to the AFV program website in the order received.
- Ohio EPA will update the list as completeness and eligibility determinations are made.

Review of Applications

- Completeness – all required components of application, including all items required to be discussed in the scope description, and a signed certification statement with all applicable boxes checked
- Eligibility of proposed new vehicle or certified conversion system

AFV Exemption from E-Check (Seven Northeast Ohio Counties)

- Vehicles operating on alternative fuel, such as propane, butane, alcohol or natural gas
- To be exempted, a one-time verification inspection by Ohio EPA's Mobile Sources Section is required, for both new AFVs and conversions.
- Call 330-963-4479, to schedule an appointment at Ohio EPA's field office in Twinsburg or one of the full service E-Check test stations
www.epa.ohio.gov/dapc/echeck/contact_us/field_office.aspx

Questions

- Engine Certification and Emission Questions
Alan.Harness@epa.ohio.gov or 614-644-4838
- Grant Funding Questions
Carolyn.Watkins@epa.ohio.gov or 614-644-3768
- Main Program Line 614-644-2873