

Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT) as a Multi-Use Water Tender

The Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck is a proven **8×8 heavy-duty tactical platform** originally designed for the U.S. Army. It is engineered for extreme terrain, high payloads, and continuous operation under demanding conditions. Variants such as the M978 tanker and the HEWATT water tender demonstrate its adaptability for fire-service use, including water transport, tactical support, and wildland operations.

Why a HEMTT Water Tender Benefits the Community

Massive Water Capacity (2,500 gallons)

- A HEMTT-based tender carries **over eight times** the water of a standard 300-gallon grass rig.
- This dramatically reduces refill cycles during grass and brush fires, improving suppression capability and response efficiency.
- The HEWATT configuration includes an integrated **2,500-gallon tank** and a **500 GPM pump**, making it suitable for both direct attack and water shuttle operations.

Superior Off-Road Performance for Grass Fires

- The HEMTT's **8×8 drivetrain**, high ground clearance, and extreme off-road mobility allow it to reach areas where lighter trucks may struggle.
- Designed for military terrain, it maintains traction and stability on uneven, soft, or rugged ground—ideal for the grassland and rural environments common in the region.
- Its ability to operate “off-road to no-road” makes it far more capable than a 1-ton chassis during wildland incidents.

Multi-Use Capability

- The HEMTT platform can serve as:
 - A **water tender**
 - A **tanker for shuttles**
 - A **grass/brush attack rig** with bumper turret capability
 - A **logistics support vehicle** for extended operations
- Its modular design and heavy-duty construction allow it to be adapted for multiple mission profiles, reducing the need for separate specialized vehicles.

Durability and Reliability

- Built for military service, the HEMTT is engineered for **continuous operation in extreme conditions**, including high heat, rough terrain, and long-duration missions.
- Components are designed for severe duty, and the platform has a long track record of reliability in global deployments.

Long-Term Value

- While the initial acquisition cost may exceed that of a 1-ton replacement, the HEMTT provides:
 - Far greater operational capability
 - Reduced need for additional water tenders
 - Increased safety and efficiency for firefighters
 - Longer service life due to military-grade construction
- This makes it a **cost-effective investment** for communities facing frequent grass fires or large rural response areas.