

Analysis

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

Assistance to Firefighters Grant - Retroactive Approval to Apply

Analyst: Julie Neburka

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application for \$343,104 to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Assistance to Firefighters Grant program for firefighting equipment.

Analysis: The 2017 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program makes \$310.5 million available on a competitive basis to fire departments, emergency medical services agencies, and state fire training academies nationwide. Funds can be used to purchase equipment for effective response, firefighting, rescue, and emergency medical operations to enhance public safety. On February 2nd, 2018, the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) applied for \$343,104 from this grant program after timely ten-day notification to the Legislature.

State fire training academies may only spend grant funds on equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), and vehicle acquisition. If awarded, DPSST plans to spend grant funds to replace its 1987 commercial chassis water tender truck. The new vehicle would carry 3,000 gallons of water, pump 1,000 gallons per minute, and comply with National Fire Protection Association standards for fire apparatus. Grant funds would also be spent to equip the vehicle and to purchase firefighter safety gear.

The agency will meet the grant's 15% matching requirement of \$51,465 within its existing Fire Training budget. Grant awards are anticipated to be announced on April 6, 2018, with a period of performance between March 1, 2018-March 1, 2019. Should the grant be awarded, DPSST will return to the Emergency Board to request additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: Approve the request.