

Analysis

Item 8: Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

Wildland Fire Fighter Training

Analyst: Julie Neburka

Request: Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training by \$323,657 for reimbursement of expenses incurred during Wildland Fire Fighter Training for the National Guard Bureau in July 2020.

Analysis: Between July 11th and July 17th, the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) provided wildland fire fighter training and certification to 424 members of the Oregon National Guard. Training was held on-site at the Public Safety Academy campus in Salem, where the National Guard members were housed, fed, equipped, and trained. Since 2018, federal funding has been made available through the National Guard Bureau specifically for wildland firefighter training, allowing Guard members to be trained and equipped for wildland firefighting before they are needed.

DPSST has invoiced and received payment from the Oregon Military Department for housing, food, equipment, and training expenses associated with the National Guard Bureau training in July, and now requires additional Other Funds expenditure limitation in order to accommodate those one-time unbudgeted expenses in its 2019-21 budget.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Emergency Board increase Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training by \$323,657 for reimbursement of expenses incurred during Wildland Fire Fighter Training for the National Guard Bureau in July 2020.

8
Department of Public Safety Standards and Training
McDonald

Request: Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$323,657 for expenditures related to the National Guard Wildland Fire Fighter Training.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) is responsible for providing wildfire suppression training to Oregon's National Guard members. From July 11 through July 17, in advance of the 2020 wildfire season, DPSST provided wildland firefighter training to 424 citizen-soldiers and citizen-airmen from the National Guard. This included classroom, hands-on, and live-fire training elements. To meet the training demands for the 2020 fire season, DPSST staff was augmented by qualified fire service instructors from throughout Oregon and other states. This included instructors from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Oregon Military Department (OMD), U.S. Forest Service, and the Illinois Fire Service Institute. In addition to training, the Department housed, fed, and equipped the members of the Oregon National Guard at the Academy while other Department activities continued without interruption.

The training was planned ahead of the fire season to enable Guard members to assist on the fire lines much faster. This request for limitation is fully supported by federal funding allocated by Congress to OMD, ahead of wildfire season. The Department has already received reimbursement from OMD for a total of \$323,657 for preparing members of the National Guard for wildland firefighting. The funds are received by DPSST as Other Funds and the Department is requesting Other Funds expenditure limitation in the amount of \$323,657 for the unbudgeted training.

Legal Reference: Increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 479, section 2(1), Oregon Laws 2019, for the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, Operations Division, by \$323,657 for the 2019-21 biennium.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

4190 Aumsville Hwy SE

Salem, OR 97317-8983

503-378-2100

<http://www.dpsst.state.or.us>

November 4, 2020

The Honorable Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Tina Kotek, Co-Chair
State Emergency Board
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

NATURE OF REQUEST

The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) is requesting an increase in Other Fund expenditure limitation in the amount of \$323,657.

AGENCY ACTION

DPSST is requesting an increase in Other Funds expenditure limitation of \$323,657 for agency expenditures related to the National Guard Wildland Fire Fighter Training provided at the Public Safety Academy in July.

It is DPSST's honor and privilege to train members of the Oregon National Guard (Guard) who have volunteered to help support our state's wildfire suppression efforts. As part of the State's coordinated and comprehensive wildfire suppression efforts, and thanks to funds allocated by the federal government, 424 citizen-soldiers and citizen-airmen from the Guard were trained as wildland firefighters in advance of the 2020 wildfire season.

DPSST provided the training at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem from July 11-17. Due to the volume of personnel being trained, DPSST fire training staff was augmented by instructors from the Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Military Department Wildland Firefighting Section, United States Forest Service, and the Illinois Fire Service Institute. With the approval of the City of Salem Fire Marshal, and with personal notification to all adjacent property owners, DPSST burned a number of acres of grassland on campus to allow the members of the Oregon National Guard to receive live-fire hands-on training.

Federal funds were allocated at the request of state officials to help prepare members of the Guard in case their assistance was needed to support wildland firefighting efforts around the state. This proactive work enabled the Guard to assist on the fire lines much faster. DPSST housed, fed, equipped, and trained the members of the Guard while other activities on the calendar continued to take place without interruption. DPSST staff from all divisions, and our contract food provider Aramark, worked in unison to help support the training and the citizen-soldiers and citizen-airmen at the Academy.

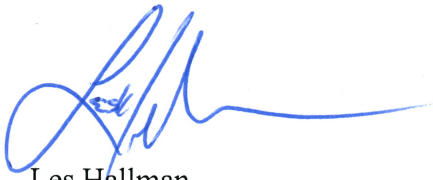
ACTION REQUESTED

DPSST invoiced and received reimbursement from Oregon Military Department for expenditures totaling \$323,657. DPSST requests that the Emergency Board increase DPSST's Other Fund expenditure limitation due to unbudgeted wildfire training in the amount of \$323,657.

LEGISLATION AFFECTED

Increase Other Fund expenditure limitation established by Chapter 479, Section 2, Oregon Laws 2019, for the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training by \$323,657 for the 2019-21 biennium.

Sincerely,



Les Hallman
Interim Director