

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 22: Department of State Police Fire Season Costs

To:	Emergency Board Full Committee
From:	General Government Subcommittee
Carrier:	Senator Wagner

The General Government Subcommittee recommends that the Emergency Board allocate \$16,571,294 General Fund from the Emergency Fund to the Department of State Police, Office of the State Fire Marshal, for costs incurred during the 2021 and 2022 fire seasons.

In 2021 and 2022, the Office of the State Fire Marshal mobilized firefighting resources for fourteen Governor-declared conflagrations across Oregon. The initial estimated costs of those 14 fires totaled \$35.8 million. Of the 14 fires, three were eligible for reimbursement through FEMA's Fire Management Assistance Grant Program, which reimburses states for up to 75% of eligible costs incurred to fight large wildfires. The state share of the FEMA-eligible fires is \$9.4 million.

The other 11 fires of 2021 and 2022 are not FEMA-eligible due to their remote locations and lack of primary structures, and therefore, all costs incurred are the state's responsibility.

In total, the 2021 state fire costs were \$17.4 million, of which \$11.3 million was already provided to the State Fire Marshal during the 2022 legislative session. State costs for the 2022 fire season equaled \$10.5 million.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.