

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 41: Department of State Fire Marshal 2024 Fire Season

To:	Emergency Board
From:	Public Safety Subcommittee
Carrier:	Senator Sollman

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends that the Emergency Board acknowledge receipt of a report on the 2024 fire season and defer the request for General Fund reimbursement of 2024 fire season costs to the December 2024 meeting of the Emergency Board, with instruction that the Department of Administrative Services schedule \$4 million General Fund appropriated to the Department of the State Fire Marshal for cash flow; and increase Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Department by \$19,333,367 million for payment of fire costs.

This has been a record year for wildfire costs in the state of Oregon. As of August 25th, the Department of the State Fire Marshal mobilized firefighting resources for 13 Governor-declared conflagrations across Oregon and 20 prepositioning and readiness response mobilizations for the 2024 fire season. The initial estimated costs of those mobilizations total \$27.3 million. Of the 13 conflagrations, eight are estimated to be 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 estimated fire costs net of federal reimbursement is \$14.5 million.

\$4 million was provided to the State Fire Marshal during the 2024 legislative session for preposition and readiness response activities along with an additional unscheduled \$4 million to address cash flow needs, which has remained unscheduled to date. The 2024 fire season is not over yet and additional costs are expected to be incurred. The agency is

expected to return to the December 2024 meeting of the Emergency Board to request General Fund reimbursement and provide updated 2024 fire costs.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends approval.