

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 24: Department of the State Fire Marshal 2024 Fire Season

To: Emergency Board
From: Public Safety Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Evans

The Public Safety Subcommittee heard a request for \$5 million General Fund from the Department of the State Fire Marshal for 2024 fire season costs.

The state of Oregon experienced a record breaking 2024 fire season, which included 17 conflagrations and 27 prepositioning and readiness response activities. The Department incurred gross costs of \$34.6 million, and after anticipated federal reimbursement, net fire costs are approximately \$17.2 million. A total of \$8 million General Fund was previously provided to the Department in the 2024 session, leaving a funding gap of \$26.6 million. A General Fund appropriation of this amount is necessary to ensure sufficient resources are available to cover costs due to the unknown timeline of payment from the Federal Emergency Management Agency - Fire Management Assistance Grant program.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends that the Emergency Board defer action on the request to the 2024 special session.