

ANALYSIS

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training Assistance to Firefighters

Analyst: John Terpening

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application of up to \$500,000 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters Grant program for firefighter training equipment.

Analysis: The 2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program makes \$324 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. The grant application period opened in February and closes on March 8, 2024. The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) requests permission to apply for up to \$500,000 from this grant program to purchase two flammable liquids and gas props, one vehicle fire prop, and one ventilation prop.

The Assistance to Firefighters grant specifies that state fire training academies may only spend grant funds on equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), and vehicle acquisition. DPSST applies for funding from this program annually and typically uses the funds to purchase mobile firefighter training equipment to provide firefighter training at multiple locations throughout the state.

The agency will meet the grant's 15% matching requirement of up to \$75,000 within its existing Fire Training budget. Grant awards are anticipated to be announced by April 30, 2024. Should the grant be awarded, DPSST will return to the Emergency Board to request additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Committee on Ways and Means approve the request.

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training Fox

Request: The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) requests authorization to apply for a grant of up to \$500,000 for the Fiscal Year 2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program provides resources to equip and train emergency personnel. As a state training academy, DPSST is eligible to apply for these funds for firefighter training programs, and one of the eligible uses of these funds is for training equipment.

If the grant is awarded, DPSST plans to use the funds for training props including flammable liquid and gas props, a vehicle fire prop, and a ventilation prop. The grant application is due March 8, 2024, and award will be announced beginning April 30, 2024. There is a two-year period of performance for this grant program.

There is a 15 percent state match requirement for this grant. DPSST can use a portion of their Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Fire Training Program as the match for this grant. No position authority is needed for this grant. If successful, DPSST will need to return to an interim meeting of the Legislature to request additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation.



February 23, 2024

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

Nature of the Request

The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) requests approval to apply for a federal grant of up to \$500,000 from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Agency Action

In February 2024, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security opened the FY 2023 AFG Program. The application period closes on March 8, 2024.

The primary goal of the AFG Grant is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations. As a State Training Academy, DPSST is allowed to apply for this grant for fire training equipment.

DPSST plans to request up to \$500,000, the maximum amount provided by AFG to State Training Academies. If DPSST is a successful recipient of this award the agency would request two flammable liquids and gas props, one vehicle fire prop, and one ventilation prop. DPSST would need to return to an Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means or Emergency Board to request an increase in the agency's Federal Funds Expenditure Limitation.

The grant requires a 15% match of the amount being requested. If DPSST is a successful recipient of this grant, a portion of the Other Funds currently allocated to DPSST for the Fire Training Program would be used for the 15% matching amount. This grant will not require any additional FTE.

Action Requested

DPSST requests approval to submit a grant application to the FY 2023 AFG Program under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Legislation Affected

Senate Bill 5533, Chapter 482, 2023 Oregon Laws, provides the DPSST 2023-25 legislatively approved budget. SB 5533 included a \$7,769,161 Federal Funds Expenditure Limitation.

Sincerely,

Philip Castle
Agency Director
Department of Public Safety Standards and Training