

## Analysis

### Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

#### Assistance to Firefighters

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**Analyst:** Julie Neburka

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

**Analysis:** The 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program makes \$319.5 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 on January 4, 2021, and closes on February 12, 2021. The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) requests permission to apply for up to \$500,000 from this grant program to purchase a cache of wildland firefighting equipment, a ventilation prop, extrication equipment and a trailer, a forcible entry trailer (prop), and thermal imaging cameras.

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 in order 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 on or after May 1, 2021, with funds available between May 1, 2021 and April 30, 2023. Should the grant be awarded, DPSST will return to the Legislature or the Emergency Board to request additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation.

**Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation:** Approve the request.

## Department of Public Safety Standards and Training McDonald

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**Request:** Authorization to apply for a grant of up to \$500,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) for assistance to firefighters.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Discussion:** The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (Department) seeks approval to apply for the competitive 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) made available to fire departments, agencies providing emergency medical services, and state fire training academies. This grant would provide one-time funding intended to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters by providing resources to equip and train emergency personnel. As a state training academy, the Department is invited to apply for this grant for fire training equipment. If the Department is successful, they would purchase a cache of wildland firefighting equipment, a ventilation prop, an automobile extrication equipment trailer, a forcible entry trailer, and thermal imaging cameras.

The application period opened on January 4, 2021 and submissions will be accepted through February 12, 2021. Awards are expected to be announced by May 1, 2021 and if the agency is successful, the grant must be implemented within 24 months from the date of the award. This performance period (the window in which equipment must be purchased) falls across biennia, primarily in the 2021-23 biennium. There is a 15 percent match requirement, totaling up to \$75,000. The Department intends to repurpose training dollars currently in the Fire Training Program's budget to meet the match requirement. If the Department is successful, they will return to the Legislature to request the additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation, as needed.



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

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January 13, 2021

The Honorable Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair  
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
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) requests approval to apply for a federal grant of up to \$500,000 from the 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

## **Background**

On January 4, 2021, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security opened the 2020 AFG Program. The application period closes on February 12, 2021.

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.

If DPSST is a successful recipient of this award the agency would request a cache of wildland equipment, ventilation prop, auto extrication equipment and trailer, a forcible entry trailer, and thermal imaging cameras.

DPSST plans to request up to \$500,000, the maximum amount provided by AFG to State Training Academies.

The grant requires a 15% match of the amount being requested. If DPSST is a successful recipient of this grant, the training dollars currently allocated for the Fire Training Program would be repurposed towards this program. This grant will not require any additional FTE.

## **Agency Action**

DPSST intends to submit a federal grant application for up to \$500,000 from the 2020 AFG Program. If the award is granted, DPSST will request up to \$500,000 in Federal Funds expenditure limitation at the next meeting of the interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means or Emergency Board.

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**Action Requested**

DPSST requests approval to submit a grant application to the 2020 AFG Program under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Sincerely,



Les Hallman  
DPSST Interim Director