

# ANALYSIS

## Department of Public Safety Standards and Training Assistance to Firefighters

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**Analyst:** Steve Robbins

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

**Analysis:** The 2024 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program makes \$292 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 November 2024, and closed on December 20, 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 vehicle fire props, one flammable liquids and gas prop, and one forcible entry 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 grant application submission due date was December 20, 2024, and the Department submitted a 10-day letter on December 6, however, this fell after the deadline for consideration by the Emergency Board in December, requiring retroactive approval.

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 no later than September 30, 2025. Should the grant be awarded, DPSST may need to return to the Legislature to request additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation.

**Recommendation:** The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.

## Department of Public Safety Standards and Training Bennett

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**Request:** Retroactive authorization to apply for a grant totaling \$460,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant to meet the firefighting and emergency response training needs of fire departments and non-affiliated emergency medical service organizations.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Discussion:** The Assistance to Firefighters Grant issued by FEMA provides funding opportunities to fire departments, state fire training academies, and emergency medical service organizations for equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training and other resources. As a state training academy, the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) can apply for these Federal Funds for fire training equipment. The projected notification date to applicants is in April of 2025 and the performance period is 24 months from the award date. The Department has consistently received funding from this grant program.

If awarded, DPSST intends to use the funds to purchase two vehicle fire props, one flammable liquid and gas prop, and one forcible entry prop, which will support the Fire Training Program by allowing it to better meet constituent needs.

DPSST provided their 10-day letter on December 10, 2024, and the grant application was due on December 20, 2024. If funding is awarded, DPSST will return to the appropriate committee to request an increase in expenditure limitation, as needed. The grant requires a 15 percent match, which DPSST will provide through existing Fire Training Program funds.



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

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January 21, 2025

The Honorable Senator Kate Lieber  
The Honorable Representative Tawna Sanchez  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Lieber and Representative Sanchez:

### **Nature of the Request**

The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) requests approval to apply for a federal grant of \$460,000 from the 2024 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program under FEMA.

### **Federal Grant Information**

On November 12, 2024, FEMA opened the 2024 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program with a closing date of December 20, 2024. DPSST applied for this grant on December 18, 2024, following the required 10-day notification letter to the legislature which was submitted on December 10, 2024. Projected notification to applicants is April 2025. If awarded, the performance period will be 24 months from the award date.

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 acquire two vehicle fire props, one flammable liquid and gas prop, and one forcible entry prop.

DPSST requested \$460,000 and the grant requires a 15% match of the amount being requested, or \$60,000. 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.

DPSST requests expenditure limitation needed of \$460,000, if the grant application is approved.

Sincerely,

Philip Castle  
Agency Director