



State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
JAMES H. HAYES BLDG. 33 HAZENDR
CONCORD, N.H. 03305
(603) 271-2791

EDDIE EDWARDS
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

STEVEN R. LAVOIE
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

ROBERT L. QUINN
COMMISSIONER

January 24, 2024

The Honorable, Ken Weyler, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

1. Pursuant to RSA 14:30-VI, authorize the Department of Safety, Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services, to amend Fiscal Committee FIS #21-350 approved on November 19, 2021 #FIS 21-350 and Governor and Council item #101, approved on November 22, 2021, to reallocate funds in the amount of \$697,299 and to extend the end date from June 30, 2024, to November 30, 2024. This request will allow for the completion of the infrastructure improvements at the Bethlehem training facility and the personnel costs associated to emergency medical training program and the coordination of the recruitment and retention effort. Effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor Council approval through November 30, 2024. 100% Federal Funds.
2. Pursuant to RSA 124:15, and contingent upon the approval of requested action #1, authorize the Department of Safety, Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services to amend and extend the end date from June 30, 2024 to November 30, 2024 for the full time temporary Program Specialist III position (#9T3190) established through Fiscal Committee FIS #21-350, approved on November 19, 2021, and #FIS 21-350 and Governor and Council item #101, approved on November 22, 2021. Effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor Council approval through November 30, 2024. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds are to be budgeted as follows:

02-23-23-237010-24830000 Dept. of Safety, Division of FSTEMS - FST EMERGENCY MEDICAL SVCS-ARP

Class	Description	Current SFY2024 Adj Authorized	Requested Action	SFY2024 Adjusted Authorized
000	400338-16 Federal Funds	(\$2,440,724.56)	\$ -	(\$2,440,724.56)
020	500212 Current Expense (Consumable)	\$93,278.84	(\$68,039)	\$25,239.84
030	500301 Equipment New Replacement	\$624,847.50	(\$624,847)	\$0.50
037	500311 Technology - Hardware	\$815.56	(\$815)	\$0.56

* All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH12303A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH2303Z. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

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039	501587	Telecommunications	\$4,510.84	(\$3,598)	\$912.84
040	500800	Indirect Cost	\$162,755.00	-	\$162,755.00
041	500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	\$1,915.00	-	\$1,915.00
050	500109	Personal Service Temp App	\$12,365.11	\$9,320	\$21,685.11
059	500117	Temp Full Time	\$60,494.19	\$61,979	\$122,473.19
060	500601	Benefits	\$27,149.51	\$54,133	\$81,282.51
070	500704	In State Travel Reimbursement	\$8,611.40	\$2,307	\$10,918.40
103	502664	Contracts for Oper. Services	\$1,443,981.61	\$569,560	\$2,013,541.61
		Totals	\$2,440,724.56	\$ -	\$2,440,724.56

EXPLANATION

The Department of Safety, Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services, requests authorization to reallocate funds to complete previously approved projects and initiatives. The Division has prioritized the infrastructure improvements at the Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility over the purchase of specific training equipment that was outlined within the original request. The facility investments will allow the Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services (FSTEMS) and the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to expand training opportunities in the North Country. The current cost of the infrastructure project at the Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility in Bethlehem, NH exceeds the current amount of appropriations for the project. Over the last two years, costs have escalated due to inflation, the remote nature of the location, obsolete infrastructure, unique site topography, and market volatility. Recent estimates have identified shortfall in funding required to complete the project as intended. These additional funds will help support continuation of the improvement by allowing extensive site clearing, improved electrical, water, sewer, HVAC, classroom expansion, and construction of a garage to house fire training apparatus and store and clean personal protective clothing used during practical training in the drill yard. This request will supplement the Department of Safety item on the same Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council agendas for the acceptance of \$3.37M of ARPA funds in order for the completion of this project.

Furthermore, this request will continue the funding for the personnel costs associated for the effort to collaborate with Fire and EMS leaders to develop community specific plans to improve and address the recruitment and retention challenges, as well as cover the cost for the emergency medical responder training. The original request was included in the consolidated Department of Administrative Services item that was approved by the Fiscal Committee on May 19, 2023, FIS #23-166 and Governor and Council on May 31, 2023 #160 to extend all American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) requests from June 30, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

The funds are to be budgeted as follows:

Class 020 **Current Expense (Consumable):** these funds are being reduced due to current expenses are projected to be less than the current appropriation.

Class 030 **Equipment New Replacement:** these funds are being reduced due to current expenses are projected to be less than the current appropriation.

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- Class 037 Technology – Hardware: this appropriation is no longer needs for the activities outlined within the grant.
- Class 039 Telecommunications: these funds are being reduced due to current expenses are projected to be less than the current appropriation.
- Class 050 Personal Service Temp App: these funds are to cover the cost of emergency medical training program instructional cost.
- Class 059 Temp Full Time: these funds are to cover the cost of the full-time recruitment and retention coordinator through the end of the grant period.
- Class 060 Benefits: this coincides with the increase in class 050 and 059 for benefits.
- Class 070 In State Travel Reimbursement: these funds cover the cost of the emergency medical responder training programs and recruitment and retention activities.
- Class 103 Contracts for Program Services: the purpose of these funds will be to fund the infrastructure improvements at the Bethlehem training facility.

The following information is provided in accordance with the comptroller's instructional memorandum dated September 21, 1981.

- 1) List of personnel involved: One (1) full time temporary Program Specialist III (LG 23).
- 2) Nature, Need, and Duration: This position is needed to assist New Hampshire's fire and EMS departments with a statewide recruitment and retention effort.
- 3) Relationship to existing agency programs: All fire and EMS first responder agencies are struggling to recruit and retain staff which would be trained through the Division.
- 4) Has a similar program been requested of the legislature and denied? No.
- 5) Why wasn't finding included in the agency's budget request? These funds were recently awarded and unanticipated at the time the budget was created.
- 6) Can portions of the grant funds be utilized? All grant funds can only be used for the eligible work described above.
- 7) Estimate the funds required to continue this position: Funds for this position are estimated at \$116,112 for the remaining of the grant period.

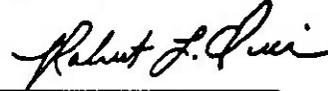
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In the event that Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Quinn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Robert L. Quinn
Commissioner of Safety

101 m.c.



State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
JAMES H. HAYES BLDG. 33 HAZEN DR.
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RICHARD C. BAILEY, JR.
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

EDDIE EDWARDS
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

ROBERT L. QUINN
COMMISSIONER

November 4, 2021

The Honorable Karen Umberger, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

1. Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the Department of Safety, Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services, to accept and expend \$2,738,541 of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF), for the purpose of improving New Hampshire's First Responder Recruitment and Training by adding personnel, training, and facility improvements at the Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Facility in Bethlehem, NH. This is an allowable use of ARP FRF funds under Section 602 (c)(1)(A) to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts. Effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2023. Funding Source: 100% Federal Funds.
2. Pursuant to RSA 124:15, and contingent upon the approval of requested action #1, authorize the Department of Safety, Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services to establish one full time temporary Program Specialist III position to oversee fire and EMS recruitment and retention efforts throughout the State. Effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2023. Funding Source: 100% Federal Funds.

Funds are to be budgeted in SFY2022 in the following account:
02-23-23-2370-24XX0000¹ – Department of Safety, Division of FSTEMS – ARP Funds

<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>SFY 2022 Current Adjusted Authorized</u>	<u>Requested Action</u>	<u>SFY 2022 Revised Adjusted Authorized</u>
000-400338	Federal Funds	(\$0.00)	(\$2,738,541.00)	(\$2,738,541.00)
	TOTAL REVENUE	(\$0.00)	(\$2,738,541.00)	(\$2,738,541.00)
020-500200	Current Expenses	\$0.00	\$147,625.00	\$147,625.00

¹ All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH2303A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH2303Z. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

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030-500331	Equipment	\$0.00	\$666,600.00	\$666,600.00
037-500173	Technology-Hardware	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
039-500188	Telecommunications	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
040-501587	Indirect Costs	\$0.00	\$162,755.00	\$162,755.00
041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	\$0.00	\$1,915.00	\$1,915.00
050-500109	Personal Service Temporary	\$0.00	\$45,450.00	\$45,450.00
057-500531	Books, Per & Subscriptions	\$0.00	\$15,150.00	\$15,150.00
059-500117	Salary Temporary Employees	\$0.00	\$77,875.00	\$77,875.00
060-500601	Benefits	\$0.00	\$50,021.00	\$50,021.00
070-500704	In State Travel	\$0.00	\$16,150.00	\$16,150.00
103-500737	Contracts for Op Services	\$0.00	\$1,547,500.00	\$1,547,500.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$0.00	(\$2,738,541.00)	(\$2,738,541.00)

EXPLANATION

These funds will be used to improve first responder recruitment and retention efforts statewide. Fire and EMS departments across the state are facing challenges in recruiting new members to their departments. There is no centralized collection of data on the recruitment problem for fire and EMS services throughout New Hampshire, however, service leaders routinely report a decline in potential candidates in the hiring process. On call and volunteer department leaders report increased difficulty in recruiting members as well. This is consistent with a national poll showing almost 70% of rural EMS providers report having difficulty in recruiting volunteers to adequately meet staffing needs. A Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation poll found that approximately 29% of health-care workers have considered leaving the profession due to burnout and trauma, and 60% stating that stress from the pandemic has harmed their mental health.

Funds will be used to develop a statewide dashboard tracking first responder workforce data elements and the overall ability of departments to respond to and handle emergencies. This data will be evaluated and utilized by a new full-time temporary Statewide Recruitment Coordinator (Program Specialist III) working collaboratively with fire and EMS leaders to develop community specific plans to improve recruitment and retention.

Facility and equipment investments at the Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Facility in Bethlehem, NH will allow the Division to expand training options to Fire Departments in the North Country. A new three bay, heated garage will be constructed to securely house a new fire pumper apparatus and new equipment and training simulators to ensure effective and safe fire instruction. The garage will include a decontamination area with showers and an area where all contaminated personal protective clothing can be cleaned and stored, to adequately separate it from the classroom building. A second classroom will be built within unfinished space in the existing facility allowing increased usage and simultaneous scheduling of courses across multiple disciplines. Funds will be used to complete necessary upgrades to the existing electrical system, water and sewer, replacement of the HVAC system, as well as general site work necessary to support the proper environment for learning and maintain student health and safety.

Funds will also be used to increase the number of emergency medical responder training courses to add additional EMS licensees, primarily in rural parts of the state. The goal is to reduce the percentage of fire departments that do not currently hold an EMS license at any level from the current rates of 53% in Coös

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County, 48% in Sullivan County, 29% in Carroll County and 34% in Cheshire County. Increasing the number of existing responders that are trained to assist in a medical emergency on scene and during transport, will help to improve patient outcomes.

This is an allowable use of ARP FRF funds under Section 602 (c)(1)(A) to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts. In accepting ARP FRF funds, the Department agrees to work collaboratively with the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery to ensure accurate and timely reporting to U.S. Department of Treasury on the use of the funds.

Funds are to be budgeted as follows:

- Class 020 – Current Expense: Supplies for training, such as personal protective clothing, tools and hoses
- Class 030 – Equipment: To purchase fire and EMS training equipment such as training manikins portable radios and ventilation saws (\$66,000) and a fire pumper (\$600,000)
- Class 037 – Technology-Hardware: To purchase laptop and scanner for recruitment and retention staff
- Class 039 – Telecommunications: Represents costs for cell phones used recruitment and retention
- Class 040 – Indirect Costs: Represents the indirect cost associated amount for this request at 8.5%
- Class 041 – Audit Fund Set-Aside: Represents the audit fund set-aside associated amount for this request
- Class 050 – Personal Service Temporary: Instructional cost to provide approximately (4) Emergency Medical Responder education courses per year to approximately 500 students
- Class 057 – Books, Per & Subscriptions: Cost to purchase student text books for training programs
- Class 059 – Salary Temporary Employees: Used to pay wages new full-time position
- Class 060 – Benefits: To pay associated benefits for new full-time position and instructional cost
- Class 070 – Employee Training: To cover costs for training and recruitment and retention program
- Class 103 – Contracts for Operational Services: To cover costs associated contracted services as needed build out training facility improvements for the Bethlehem training facility.

The following information is provided in accordance with the comptroller's instructional memorandum dated September 21, 1981.

- 1) *List of personnel involved* One (1) full time temporary Program Specialist III (LG 23). The proposed funding for these positions ends December 31, 2024.
- 2) *Nature, Need, and Duration:* These positions are needed to assist New Hampshire's fire and EMS departments with a statewide recruitment and retention effort.
- 3) *Relationship to existing agency programs:* All fire and EMS first responder agencies are struggling to recruit and retain staff which would be trained through the Division.
- 4) *Has a similar program been requested of the legislature and denied?* No.
- 5) *Why wasn't funding included in the agency's budget request?* These funds were recently awarded and unanticipated at the time the budget was created.
- 6) *Can portions of the grant funds be utilized?* All grant funds can only be used for the eligible work described above.

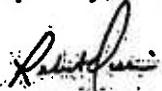
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- 7) *Estimate the funds required to continue this position:* Funds for these positions are estimated at \$321,997 for the duration of the grant through December 31, 2024.

In the event that Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully Submitted,


Robert L. Quinn
Commissioner of Safety