



State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
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September 8, 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

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, to accept and expend \$1,250,000 of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF), to award a grant to the Southwestern New Hampshire District Fire Mutual Aid for the cost associated with modernizing their existing fire and emergency medical services communication network. This is an allowable use of ARPA SFRF 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, 2025. Funding Source: **100% Federal Funds**

Funds are to be budgeted in SFY2025 in the following account:

02-23-23-236010-28XX0000¹– Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, SWNHDFMA Comm System – ARP

<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Requested Action SFY 2025</u>
000-400338-16	Federal Funds	\$ (1,250,000)
041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	1,250
072-500573	Grants to Institutions-Federal	1,248,750
TOTAL APPROPRIATION		\$ 1,250,000

EXPLANATION

The purpose of this request is to award a grant to the Southwestern New Hampshire District Fire Mutual Aid (SWNHDFMA), who has applied for NH ARPA funds to assist in funding their project of modernizing the existing fire and emergency medical services (EMS) communication network. Their existing equipment is an obsolete 15-year-old hybrid simulcast land mobile radio system with outdated technology and discontinued manufacturer support. The entire system is at risk of failure because many critical components have reached the end of their operational life expectancy and replacement parts are only available on the used

^[1] All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH2319A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH2319Z. 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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market. The SWNHDFMA communications center serves more communities than any other public safety dispatch center in New England. In addition to ensuring the prompt and equitable delivery of fire and EMS services daily, SWNHDFMA dispatches and coordinates resources during natural and technological disasters, such as floods, hurricanes, winter storms, hazardous materials incidents, mass casualty incidents, and terrorist events. In 2023, the center promptly and efficiently handled 26,916 emergency calls. These funds will support their proposed system upgrade through:

- Installing, configuring, and optimizing new internet protocol (IP) based equipment and systems at twelve (12) radio repeater sites thus creating a modern wide area network P-25 compliant radio system with clear and seamless widespread radio coverage. This includes new land mobile radios and antennas and new or upgraded cabinets and structures, new microwave back haul to the main "hub" site in Westmoreland, and associated software systems for management and control.
- Establishing interoperability with the state's communications backbone, Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact communications center, and Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid communications center in accordance with the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan.

Through this one-time expense, SWNHDFMA will utilize these funds to assist with their overall \$7.5M project to have clear and seamless communications with automatic failover and continuity of critical emergency communications and operations for serving a population of nearly 98,000 people living in 38 municipalities covering approximately 1,131 square miles of the southwest corner of New Hampshire.

These are allowable uses of ARPA 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.

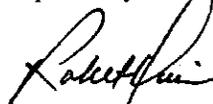
Funds are to be budgeted as follows:

Class 041 – Audit Fund Set-Aside: Represents the audit fund set-aside associated amount for this request (0.1%).

Class 072 – Grants to Institution: appropriation for the distribution of funds to grant to sub-recipient.

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