

STATE OF NEBRASKA



Dave Heineman
Governor



STATE FIRE MARSHAL
John Falgione
Fire Marshal

January 15, 2010

Senator Lavon Heidemann
And members of the Appropriations Committee
State Capitol
P.O.Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

Senator Heidemann,

Pursuant to LB1, I respectfully submit the following report of procedures of compliance by the State Fire Marshal's Office to meet budget reduction actions taken during the One Hundred First Legislature, First Special Session, 2009.

Reduction in reappropriation

Program	FY09-10 General Fund	FY09-10 Cash Fund
193-Public Protection	\$ 74,393	\$566,864
340-Fire Service Training	\$123,473	17,914
415-Emergency Responders Act	\$ 4,860	-0-

Program 193-Public Protection The reappropriation reduction of 74,393 in General Funds will delay the purchase of replacement SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) for the Nebraska Hazardous Incident Team (NHIT) and Wildland Incident Response and Assistance Team (WIRAT). The current contract price is \$9,000 per unit, which will delay the purchase of eight units.

Due to the increased award of federal funds, the reduced reappropriation of \$566,864 in Cash Funds will not cause a negative impact to the program.

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Program 340- Fire Service Training Program The reappropriation reduction of \$141,387 noted above (Cash and General Funds) will cause a delay of purchasing protective equipment to the 100 plus part-time instructors. The current contract price for the protective equipment is \$9,000 each. This reduction will delay the purchase of equipment for 16 part-time instructors.

Program 415-Emergency Responders Act The minimal reduction in General Fund reappropriations will not have an impact on the program operations.

Reduction in Appropriation

Program	FY09-10 General Fund	FY09-10 Cash Fund	FY10-11 General Fund	FY10-11 Cash Fund
193	\$ 79,928	\$ 40,429	\$ 164,342	\$ 84,009
340	\$ 22,471	\$ 566	\$ 46,025	\$ 1,135
415	\$ 322	\$ -0-	\$ 648	\$ -0-

Program 193-Public Protection The total reduction of \$120,357 (all funds) in FY09-10 will be managed by using the remaining re-appropriated funds.

The reduction of appropriations of \$248,351 (all funds) in FY10-11 will be managed by a change in operations as noted below:

Reduced number of training sessions for the Nebraska Hazardous Incident Team (NHIT) and Wildland fire Incident Response Advisory Team (WIRAT) members. Training for preparedness will be reduced to semi-annual. The estimated savings is \$7,500.

A \$12,000.00 defective thermal imaging camera will not be replaced as scheduled for NHIT.

Out-of-state travel that results in a cost to the state has been eliminated, and I have ordered staff to begin limited in-state travel immediately. The estimated savings is \$5,000.

Vacancies created through attrition will not be filled as necessary for budget control measures which would reduce cost of maintaining field staff and equipment and vehicles. If no vacancies occur, at least two layoffs will be necessary. The estimated savings with two layoffs is \$110,112.

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The Nebraska Underground Storage Tank Prevention program has the requirement of a 25% state match of the federal funds. A reduction in cash appropriations may reduce the federal dollars awarded if the cash match cannot be provided. We will notify the federal funding agency if the cash appropriation is insufficient to match our grant for further guidance on how to proceed with the program. The current grant award is \$450,000 and the match is \$150,000. Savings of \$84,009.

Testing and fireworks inspections will be reduced for FY 10-11, saving \$20,000.00.

The relocation of the Nebraska State Fair from State control to delegated authority control by the City of Grand Island will reduce inspection oversight that required twelve days of six staff members' expenses for mileage, motels, and meals resulting in a savings of \$9,730.00.

Program 340-Fire Service Training The reduction in FY 09-10 will be managed by using re-appropriated funds.

Further reductions in FY10-11 will include eliminating out-of-state travel to annual conferences and trade shows. Eliminating this training will save approximately \$8,500 per year.

Vacancies created by attrition of the part time instructor cadre will not be filled as a budget control measure. This will create a savings in pay, travel and equipment costs. If attrition vacancies are not sufficient to sustain the program, a sufficient number of part time instructors will not be contracted to ensure we meet budgetary goals. The part-time instructors are contracted each pay period for approximately \$3,000 or \$78,000 annually.

Program 415 – Emergency Responders Act The minimal reduction in general fund appropriations will be managed without impact to the operations of the program.

Transfers of Cash Funds to General Funds	FY09-10	FY10-11
Fund 21230 – NE Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Cash Fund	\$200,000	-0-
Fund 21250 – State Fire Marshal Cash Fund	\$140,429	\$84,009

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Fund 21251 – Training Division Cash Fund \$566 \$ 1,135

Fund 22110 – Underground Storage Tank Cash Fund \$100,000 -0-

The transfer of cash funds to general funds should leave a remaining balance sufficient to meet the appropriations in all programs without necessitating a fee increase.

Respectfully,

John E. Falgione
Agency Director
State Fire Marshal

CC: Senator Danielle Conrad
Senator Tony Fulton
Senator Thomas Hansen
Senator John Harms
Senator Heath Mello
Senator John Nelson
Senator Jeremy Nordquist
Senator John Wrightman
State Budget Division Analyst Joe Wilcox
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