



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

MINUTES
MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
WORK SESSION – GRANT REQUESTS
Bureau of Fire Services – Conference Room B
3101 Technology Blvd., Suite H, Lansing, MI 48910
Tuesday, February 25, 2019
9:00 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chad Tackett, Chairperson, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs (joined at 10:00 a.m.)
Brian Blomstrom, Vice Chair, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
Terrance Blackmer, Michigan State Firemen's Association
Lynnae White, Michigan Fire Inspectors Society
Alan Styles, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Jacob Steichen, Nominee of the State Fire Marshal
Kevin Sehlmeier, State Fire Marshal, Ex-officio Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Firefighters Union
Greg Janik, Michigan Municipal League

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:

Hollie Metts, Assistant to the State Fire Marshal/Recording Secretary
Dan Hammerberg, Region 1 Coordinator (conference call)
TJ Richardson, Region 2 Coordinator

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bill Weaver, Saginaw County
Liam Carrol, Schoolcraft College Fire Training Institute
Josh Mosher, Midland Fire Department
David Pelton, Walker Fire Department
Tom Stuck, Macomb County
Mark Cleveland, Muskegon County
Michelle Augaey, Battle Creek Fire Department
Mike Betts, Saugatuck Township Fire District
Greg Ginebaugh, Delta Township Fire Department
Andre Doser, Battle Creek Fire Department
Steven Wart, Athens Township Fire Department
Rob Ginther, Beverly Hills Department of Public Safety
Jeremy Carroll, St. Joseph Department of Public Safety
Bill Pawluck, Lansing Community College

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Vice Chairperson Blomstrom called the special meeting/work session to order at 9:13 a.m. A quorum was determined present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

19-02-01

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blackmer** and seconded by **Councilperson Steichen** to approve the special meeting/work session agenda for February 25, 2019. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Review Training Grant Applications:** The training grant packets were provided to the council for review. Before review of the training grant packets, Fire Marshal Sehmeyer shared that there were three (3) additional regional applications that were not included in their packets. He explained that the applications were originally found to be noncompliant as they were missing the December NFIRS reports. It is possible the December NFIRS reports were not received due to the federal shutdown as well as the State of Michigan office closure during the polar vortex. The Fire Marshal asked whether the council would like to include the three (3) additional regional applications in their review for possible grant funding.

19-2-02

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Styles** to accept the three (3) additional regional grant applications and include them in the council's review for possible grant funding. **Councilperson Blackmer seconded the motion for discussion.** Councilperson Blackmer added that the office closure during the polar vortex as well as staffing issues during that time could have caused some issues if the applicants were trying to reach bureau staff for assistance. Councilperson Styles asked if the bureau received confirmation that the reports were uploaded. Fire Marshal Sehmeyer shared that the State of Michigan releases the NFIRS reports to the Feds. On February 1, 2019 when the NFIRS report was ran the data was not included for the applicants in question. Region Coordinator Richardson added that the applicants received messages that their NFIRS reports were not imported due to import failure. Councilperson Styles shared that in fairness he believed the three (3) additional regional grant applications should be included as further down the worksheet, there are department grant applicants that exceeded the \$10,000 limit but were allowed through.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilperson Tackett: Absent
Vice Chairperson Blomstrom: Deny
Councilperson Blackmer: Deny
Councilperson Pettinger: Absent
Fire Marshal Sehmeyer: Allow
Councilperson Steichen: Deny
Councilperson Styles: Abstain
Councilperson White: Deny
Councilperson Janik: Absent

Votes to allow: 1
Votes to deny: 4
Abstentions: 1
Members Absent: 3

MOTION FAILED.

- i. **Regional Grant Applications:** The council then discussed how to categorize the grant applications for approval during the regular meeting and proceeded to review the regional grant applications. To date, the total available funding is \$207,443.14.

The council agreed that the following EMT classes would not be considered:

EMT Basic Class, FMG-050
EMT Basic Class, FMG-094

19-2-03

A **MOTION** was made by **Vice Chairperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Blackmer** to accept regional grant application FMG-104 – Copper Country Live Burn Training for the requested amount of \$25,000 as outlined in the application. **MOTION CARRIED.**

19-2-04

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Styles** and seconded by **Councilperson Steichen** to accept regional grant application FMG-119 for various classes in the amount of \$19,660. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier pointed out that these classes are all under the old fire officer system. **MOTION CARRIED.**

19-2-05

A **MOTION** was made by **Vice Chairperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Styles** to accept regional grant application FMG-022 – Live Fire Training for Clinton County in the amount of \$25,000. Vice Chairperson Blomstrom shared that he selected this application based on the number of students (160 total), the surrounding counties, and eight (8) classes minimum. **MOTION CARRIED.**

19-2-06

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Steichen** and seconded by **Vice Chairperson Blomstrom** to accept regional grant application FMG-095 – Kalamazoo Metro Training Project in the amount of \$24,675. **MOTION CARRIED.**

19-2-07

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Styles** and seconded by **Councilperson White** to accept regional grant application FMG-087 – Principles of Modern Fire Attack in the amount of \$3,550. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that the curriculum will change in the next year. **Councilperson Blackmer abstained. MOTION CARRIED.**

19-2-08

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson White** and seconded by **Vice Chairperson Blomstrom** to accept the following regional grant applications:

FMG-028 – Forcible Entry Simulators in the amount of \$14,085

FMG-055 – Door Prop – Smoke Machine in the amount of \$8,600
FMG-075 – Multi-force Door in the amount of \$7,305

Councilperson Steichen would like to communicate that the props are available for other departments to use. **MOTION CARRIED.**

19-2-09

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blackmer** and seconded by **Councilperson Styles** to accept regional grant application FMG-068 – Thermal Imaging and Modern Fire Dynamics in the amount of \$8,485. **MOTION CARRIED.**

19-2-10

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Styles** and seconded by **Councilperson Blackmer** to accept regional grant application FMG-083 – Flashover Training in the amount of \$4,882. **MOTION CARRIED.**

19-2-11

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Steichen** and seconded by **Councilperson Blackmer** to accept regional grant application FMG-096 – IAFF Peer Support in the amount of \$8,000. Councilperson Steichen shared that he thinks this class is important to the mental health of our first responders. Councilperson Styles asked if the applicant is not able to fill the class, can non-union members attend. Councilperson Steichen confirmed that non-union members could attend if there were extra seats available in the class. Councilperson Styles shared that he didn't think the IAFF allowed non-members to attend in the past. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that non-members would be required to pay a fee to attend per the set fee formula. **MOTION CARRIED.**

19-2-12

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blackmer** and seconded by **Councilperson Styles** to accept regional grant application FMG-101 – Farm Rescue in the amount of \$10,000. Councilperson Blackmer shared that he selected this application as there hadn't been a lot of training approved in that area. **MOTION CARRIED.**

19-2-13

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Styles** and seconded by **Councilperson White** to accept regional grant application FMG-057 – Smart Screen Distant Learning in the amount of \$15,408. Vice Chairperson Blomstrom shared that he is nervous about approving this application as all 83 counties must be treated fairly and equitably, and questions what type of requests may follow, if accepted. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier suggested accepting this application and treating it as a pilot program to evaluate the distance learning program. Councilperson Blackmer added that this is something for the council to keep in mind as we move more toward online testing. Councilperson Blackmer also questioned whether there were enough instructors in the UP. Region Coordinator Hammerberg stated the instructor ratio is small. Councilperson Styles did not accept the amendment to the motion to allow the Smart Screen Distant Learning program to be evaluated as a pilot program.

A roll call vote was taken:

Chairperson Tackett: Accept
Vice Chairperson Blomstrom: Deny

Councilperson Styles: Accept
Councilperson White: Accept
Councilperson Blackmer: Accept
Councilperson Steichen: Accept
Fire Marshal Sehmeyer: Accept
Councilperson Pettinger: Absent
Councilperson Janik: Absent

Votes to Accept: 6
Votes to Deny: 1
Abstentions: 0
Members Absent: 2

MOTION CARRIED.

19-2-14

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson White** and seconded by **Councilperson Styles** to accept regional grant application FMG-112 – Engine Company Operations in the amount of \$9,000. **MOTION CARRIED.**

19-2-15

A **MOTION** was made by **Vice Chairperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Steichen** to accept regional grant application FMG-066 – Bullex Digital Attack in the amount of \$22,409.54. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Total of remaining funds: \$1,383.60

Fire Marshal Sehmeyer shared that additional funds will likely be returned before the end of the fiscal year and suggested that the council make a list of applications that will be funded as additional training funds become available. The council discussed how to distribute the remaining funds and decided on funding the smallest requests first. The council took at break at 10:38 a.m. while staff prepared the list. The meeting resumed at 11:00 a.m.

If/when additional training funds are available, the following applications will be funded in the following order:

FMG-032 – Agricultural Machine Rescue \$1,760
FMG-030 – Pump Ops/Mutual Aid Tanker Shuttle \$2,660
FMG-063 – Fire Ground Survival \$5,854.32
FMG-116 – Midland County Training DVDs \$6,535
FMG-092 – Recon Rit \$21,000
FMG-042 – Lion Hose Prop \$22,000
FMG-002 – Training Equipment/Props \$22,000
FMG-100 – Fire Ground Survival Training and RIC \$22,020
FMG-123 - Live Fire Training Simulator \$22,201.83
FMG-071 – Blue Card Online \$24,820
FMG-036 – 2nd Annual EUP Firefighters Conference \$25,000

- i. **Department Applications:** The council discussed the department applications and decided to save them until the end of the fiscal year. If leftover funds become available, the council could vote on funding at the August meeting.

The council further discussed training equipment. Specifically, the state purchasing process and the SIGMA system. The Fire Marshal shared that we need to ensure that we follow the State of Michigan's process. The Fire Marshal added that a fund needs to be established in the future for equipment maintenance. Councilperson Styles added that a "hold harmless" document is also needed and that regular wear and tear on the equipment could be covered by the fund, however anything negligent should be paid for by the department the equipment is loaned to. From an audit standpoint, Councilperson Steichen thought the council should also consider the useful life expectancy of the equipment. Fire Marshal said that he would check with the State of Michigan to see if there is a set timeframe for useful life expectancy.

The council will also need to take into consideration the county training committees that do not want to be responsible for equipment. Any county training committee that uses the equipment will however need to include that information in their annual report using a template provided by the bureau.

V. **COUNCIL COMMENT:**

Councilperson Steichen: Felt the special meeting/work session went well. He also shared that he has been communicating with the county training committees in the northern lower peninsula and feels that overall, communication is improving.

Councilperson Blackmer: Shared that he has received a lot of phone calls recently (within the last six (6) months) regarding continuing education. He shared that a lot of callers have expressed concern that the council is "out to get them" with continuing education and that he is surprised by the number of calls he has received.

Councilperson White: Shared that she feels the council accomplished what they set out to do during the special meeting/work session. While she wishes they could approve more grants, the council is trying to do the best they can to effect as many people as they can statewide. She also shared that she has not received any negative phone calls or emails regarding the rules.

Councilperson Styles: Shared that he, too, would love to give out additional grant funds. He also feels it's the council's responsibility to put out clear and concise information and requested that the council members' contact information be added to the Bureau of Fire Services' website.

Fire Marshal Sehlmeier: Added that the council should be sharing information back to the organizations they represent.

Vice Chairperson Blomstrom: Shared that he is happy with the grant process and that he likes offering leftover funding to counties that need it.

Chairperson Tackett: Apologized for being late and thanked the Bureau of Fire Services staff for their work to prepare the grants. Chairperson Tackett also shared that he is glad the grant process is ending so the council can focus on the rules. Regarding the rules, Chairperson Tackett shared that some of the chiefs are for continuing education and others

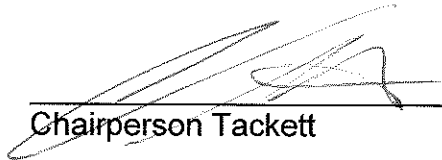
are not. It's about 50/50 but can vary by day. He reminded the councilmembers that they are appointed to represent their organizations and that they must take that into consideration as we move forward. Overall, he feels the council has good representation across the board.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:


19-2-16

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Styles** and seconded by **Councilperson Steichen** to adjourn the special meeting/work session. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

APPROVED:



Chairperson Tackett



Councilmember