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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
 DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES  
 DIVISION OF FORESTS AND LANDS

172 Pembroke Road Concord, New Hampshire 03301  
 Phone: 271-2214 Fax: 271-6488 www.nhdfi.org

December 12, 2018

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

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Authorization is requested for the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Forests and Lands to accept and expend \$16,900 from available federal grant funds for the Volunteer Fire Assistance program upon Governor and Executive Council approval through June 30, 2019. **100% Federal Funds**

Volunteer Fire Assistance					
03-35-35-351010-35220000					
Fiscal Year 2019					
Class	Description	Account	FY 2019 Current Budget	Requested Action	FY 2019 Revised Budget
<b>Revenue</b>					
000	Federal Funds	403934	-116,787	-16,900	-133,687
<b>Totals:</b>			<b>-116,787</b>	<b>-16,900</b>	<b>-133,687</b>
<b>Expense</b>					
018	Overtime	500106	15,212	0	15,212
040	Indirect Costs	500800	5,180	0	5,180
041	Audit Fund Set Aside	500801	102	17	119
050	Personal Service Temp	500109	16,574	0	16,574
060	Benefits	500611	6,663	0	6,663
072	Grants Federal	500574	2,380	8,000	10,380
075	Grants Subsidies & Relief	500590	70,676	8,883	79,559
<b>Totals:</b>			<b>116,787</b>	<b>16,900</b>	<b>133,687</b>

**EXPLANATION**

The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) program is administered by the United States Forest Service through the state forestry agencies, with the primary purpose of supporting the wildland firefighting capabilities of rural fire departments (population <10,000 residents). The New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands has been using VFA funds for many years to support rural fire departments across the state with such things as training, wildfire prevention, federal excess property (FEPP), personal protective equipment, and firefighting equipment. This program has been instrumental in equipping and supplying our rural communities, many of which already have small budgets, with proper safety gear and tools for suppressing wildfires. The program requires a 50% match which comes from town funding.

The Division has three multi-year VFA grants currently open and is requesting to increase FY19 appropriations to disburse additional funds directly to rural communities through the normal competitive grant program process and to support wildfire prevention programs. A committee made up of division staff, several fire chiefs, and a representative of the National Volunteer Fire Council reviews all the grant applications and funding is awarded based on criteria.

The following appropriations are requested for Fiscal Year 2019:

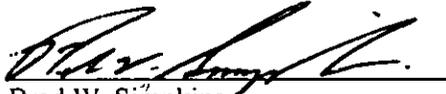
Class 041 – Audit Fund Set Aside \$17, .1% of additional funds requested per DAS

Class 072 – Grants Federal \$8,000, increase budget to purchase equipment and supplies for the support of wildfire prevention activities throughout the state; and

Class 075 – Grants Subsidies and Relief \$8,883, additional amount needed for disbursement to rural fire departments for equipment and supplies.

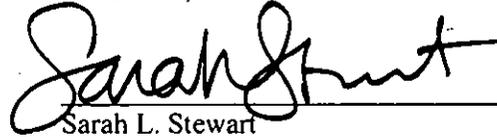
The current budget for FY 2019 is \$116,787. The requested additional amount of \$16,900 brings the overall FY 2019 budget to \$133,687.

Respectfully submitted,



Brad W. Simpkins  
Director

Concurred,



Sarah L. Stewart  
Commissioner

(nm)

State of New Hampshire  
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources  
Division of Forests and Lands

**FISCAL SITUATION**

<b>03-35-35-351010-35220000 Volunteer Fire Assistance</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Federal Grant FFY 16 #16-DG-11420004-124	\$ 33,358
Federal Grant FFY 17 #17-DG-11420004-198	72,406
Federal Grant FFY 18 #18-DG-11420004-202	80,368
Total Federal Grant Funds Available	\$ 186,132
Current SFY 2019 Budget	(116,787)
Federal Grant Funds in Excess of Budget	\$ 69,345
Funds Reserved for Future Periods	(52,445)
Additional Appropriation Request	\$ 16,900