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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
 DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
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 DIVISION OF FORESTS AND LANDS  
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February 2, 2015

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan  
 and the Honorable Executive Council  
 State House  
 Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Authorization is requested for the Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Forests and Lands to budget and expend \$26,349 from the carry forward revenue balance for the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) program upon Governor and Executive Council approval through June 30, 2015. 100% Federal Funds

<b>03-35-35-351010-35220000</b>		<b>FY 2015</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>
<b>VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE</b>		<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Revised Budget</b>
		<b>Requested Action</b>	
000-403934	Federal Funds	(\$70,704)	(\$97,053)
018-500106	Overtime	5,300	5,300
040-500800	Indirect Costs	3,200	3,200
041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	70	100
050-500109	Personal Services - Temporary	2,000	10,000
060-500612	Benefits	1,904	2,516
072-500574	Grants-Federal	2,230	2,230
075-500590	Grants Subsidies and Relief	56,000	73,707
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>\$70,704</b>	<b>\$97,053</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, 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 four multi-year VFA grants currently open and is requesting to increase FY15 appropriations to disburse additional funds directly to rural communities through the normal competitive grant program process. 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 Division is implementing the Firefighter Property Program (FFP) and requires additional funding for an existing part-time position to administer the program. The FFP program is another mechanism, similar to the FEPP program, to acquire excess federal vehicles and equipment that can be used as firefighting vehicles and equipment for municipalities. This request includes an increase to the appropriations for payment of salary and benefits for this position for the remainder of FY15. Funds have been requested in the FY16/17 operating budget for this position as well.

The following appropriations are requested for Fiscal 2015:

- Class 041 – Audit Fund Set Aside \$30, amount needed to cover audit fund set aside percentage (.001);
- Class 050 – Personal Service Temp \$8,000, amount needed to increase budget for existing part-time position for the FFP administration;
- Class 060 – Benefits \$612, amount needed to cover benefits for part-time position (Social Security and FICA); and
- Class 075 – Grants Subsidies and Relief \$17,707, amount needed for disbursement to rural fire departments for training, equipment and supplies.

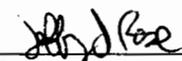
The current budget for FY15 is \$70,704. The requested additional amount of \$26,349 brings the overall FY15 budget to \$97,053.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Concurred,

  
Brad W. Simpkins  
Director

  
Jeffrey J. Rose  
Commissioner

State of New Hampshire  
Department of Resources and Economic Development  
Division of Forests and Lands

**FISCAL SITUATION**

**03-35-35-351010-35220000 VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE**

Total Current Budget for FY 2015	\$70,704
Federal Funds Budget Request for FY 2015	<u>\$26,349</u>
Total Revised Budget for FY 2015	\$97,053