



State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
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ROBERT L. QUINN
COMMISSIONER OF SAFETY

May 27, 2021

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

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

Requested Action

1. Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, to accept and expend \$921,230.00 of American Rescue Plan (ARP) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF), consisting of \$750,750.00 for upgrades to the State Emergency Operations Center and \$170,480.00 for conducting school threat assessments. Effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. Funding Source: 100% Federal Funds

2. Pursuant to RSA 124:15, and contingent upon the approval of requested action #1, authorize the Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, to establish two part-time Field Representative II positions to conduct school threat assessments. Effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. Funding Source: Funding Source: 100% Federal Funds.

Funds are to be budgeted in SFY2022 and SFY2023 with the authority to adjust between state fiscal years through the Budget Office if needed and justified. All transactions will be accounted for using activity codes to be determined and assigned by the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery.

02-23-23-236010-24XX0000 Dept. of Safety - Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Mgmt - ARP Funds

Table with 5 columns: Class, Description, SFY 2022 Appropriations, SFY 2023 Appropriations, Total Appropriations. Rows include Federal Funds, Equipment, Indirect Costs, Audit Fund Set Aside, Part-time Salaries, Benefits, and Total.

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| <u>Class</u> | <u>Description</u>   | <u>SFY 2022</u><br><u>Appropriations</u> | <u>SFY 2023</u><br><u>Appropriations</u> | <u>Total</u><br><u>Appropriations</u> |
|--------------|----------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| 000-400391   | Federal Funds        | \$ (83,081.00)                           | \$ (87,399.00)                           | \$ (170,480.00)                       |
| 030-500331   | Equipment            | \$ 0.00                                  | \$ 0.00                                  | \$ 0.00                               |
| 040-501587   | Indirect Costs       | \$ 9,898.00                              | \$ 10,412.00                             | \$ 20,310.00                          |
| 041-500801   | Audit Fund Set Aside | \$ 83.00                                 | \$ 87.00                                 | \$ 170.00                             |
| 050-500109   | Part-time Salaries   | \$ 68,000.00                             | \$ 71,500.00                             | \$ 139,500.00                         |
| 060-500611   | Benefits             | \$ 5,100.00                              | \$ 5,400.00                              | \$ 10,500.00                          |
|              | Total                | \$ 83,081.00                             | \$ 87,399.00                             | \$ 170,480.00                         |

Explanation

The Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) will utilize these American Rescue Plan (ARP) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF) to complete operational upgrades to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) located in the Incident Planning and Operations Center (IPOC). The SEOC enables NH to coordinate emergency responses for both natural and human-caused incidents. These SEOC responses involve eighteen Emergency Support Functions (ESF) and six Recovery Support Functions (RSF) comprised of state, federal, and non-profit/volunteer partners.

Part of these funds will be used to upgrade the existing end-of-life audio/video controller and display within the SEOC, integrate audio/video technology across all affiliated conference rooms, and upgrade the furniture used during SEOC activations for increased flexibility and efficiency during emergency response activations. Current audio/video systems have exceeded useful life and require replacement. Components of the current system have failed several times during the ongoing COVID-19 activation, limiting the information available to ESF personnel during response coordination. Existing furniture workstations are fixed making collaboration between ESF personnel challenging and greatly limiting the ability to socially distance in the SEOC during the COVID-19 pandemic. Replacing existing workstations with modular furniture will help to mitigate the risks to SEOC operations during the ongoing COVID-19 activation and in any future infectious disease emergency response activation. This use is allowable under the ARP FRF interim rule as an eligible use to address the effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency as it is a capital investment in a public facility to meet pandemic operational needs.

Part of these funds will also be used to support the HSEM School Preparedness Program which is responsible for conducting physical security assessments for kindergarten through grade 12 public (including charter) and non-public (non-boarding) schools in New Hampshire. Assessments and reassessments are conducted by subject matter experts. These experts look at the physical building(s) and grounds and make observations and recommendations based on three physical security capabilities: surveillance, access control, and emergency alerting. Additionally, the program works with the schools and their communities to develop Emergency Operations Plans so they may be best prepared for dealing with potential emergency events.

All NH schools have had at least one physical security assessment. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there have been no reassessments conducted this school year creating a backlog. Funds will be used to hire two part-time Field Representative II positions to conduct school emergency operations plan reviews and physical security assessments to address these gaps and continue the cycle of reviewing school EOPs to align with the Department of Education's school approval cycle of approximately 120 schools per year and 3-year security reassessment cycle. This use is allowable under the ARP FRF interim rule as provision of government services under Section 602(c)(1)(C).

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Funds are to be budgeted as follows:

Class 30 – Equipment: Purchase audio/video equipment and furniture as part of the SEOC upgrade project.

Class 40 – Indirect Costs: represents the indirect cost associated amount for this request at 13.54%.

Class 41 – Audit Fund Set-Aside: represents the audit fund set aside associated amount for this request.

Class 50 – Temp Part-time: Used to pay salaries for two new part-time Field Representative II positions in the School Preparedness Program.

Class 60 – Benefits: to pay benefits for two new part-time Field Representative II positions in the School Preparedness Program.

The following information is provided in accordance with the comptroller's instructional memorandum dated September 21, 1981.

*1) List of personnel involved:*

Two (2) Field Representative, II Emergency Management/Communications (LG 21, A000) .

*2) Nature, Need, and Duration:*

These positions are needed to assist HSEM with the School Preparedness Program. The proposed funding for these position ends on June 30, 2023.

*3) Relationship to existing agency programs:*

These positions will conduct school emergency operations plan reviews and physical security assessments as part of the existing School Preparedness Program.

*4) Has a similar program been requested of the legislature and denied?*

No.

*5) Why wasn't funding included in the agency's budget request?*

These funds were recently awarded and unanticipated at the time the budget was created.

*6) Can portions of the grant funds be utilized?*

All grant funds can only be used for the eligible work described above.

*7) Estimate the funds required to continue this position:*

Funds for these positions are estimated at \$150,000.00 for the duration of the grants through June 30, 2023.

In the event that Federal funds are no longer available, General funds and/or Highway funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert L. Quinn  
Commissioner of Safety