

House Engrossed

forestry and fire management; appropriation

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

HOUSE BILL 2803

AN ACT

APPROPRIATING MONIES TO THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE
MANAGEMENT.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Appropriation; Arizona department of forestry and
3 fire management; public safety grants;
4 exemption; application; eligible uses;
5 requirements; report

6 A. The sum of \$150,000,000 is appropriated from the state general
7 fund in fiscal year 2023-2024 to the Arizona department of forestry and
8 fire management for public safety grants.

9 B. The appropriation made in subsection A of this section is exempt
10 from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes, relating
11 to lapsing of appropriations.

12 C. A city, town or fire district may apply, on a form prescribed by
13 the department, to receive a public safety grant. The application must
14 include:

15 1. The name and contact information of a contact person for the
16 city, town or fire district.

17 2. A description of how the city, town or fire district will use
18 the grant monies. If the city, town or fire district is applying for
19 monies to construct or renovate a fire station, the city, town or fire
20 district must demonstrate to the department that the city, town or fire
21 district can pay for the ongoing operating costs of the fire station for
22 at least twenty-five years after constructing or renovating the fire
23 station.

24 3. The average medical emergency service and law enforcement
25 response time for the city's or town's fire department or the fire
26 district.

27 4. Other information required by the department to award the grant
28 monies.

29 D. The city, town or fire district may use public safety grant
30 monies to:

31 1. Purchase capital equipment necessary to respond to public safety
32 emergencies, including fire engines, ambulances, radio telecommunications
33 and uniforms and equipment.

34 2. Construct or renovate fire stations.

35 3. Purchase and provide emergency alert services that are available
36 through a mobile application or other means.

37 E. The department shall:

38 1. Develop an emergency medical service and law enforcement
39 response time goal for urban and rural areas based on data from across
40 this state and industry best practices.

41 2. Award grant monies each fiscal year as follows:

42 (a) Seventy-five percent of the monies in the fund shall be awarded
43 to cities, towns or fire districts serving urban areas.

44 (b) Twenty-five percent of the monies in the fund shall be
45 distributed to cities, towns or fire districts serving rural areas.

1 (c) Based on the need of the city, town or fire district and
2 average emergency medical service and law enforcement response times of
3 the city's or town's fire department or the fire district.

4 3. Adopt rules and prescribe forms as necessary to implement this
5 section.

6 F. The department may retain up to five percent of the monies
7 appropriated by subsection A of this section to administer this section.

8 G. Before awarding any grants under this section, the department
9 shall prepare an expenditure plan for the monies in the fund. The
10 department shall submit the expenditure plan to the joint legislative
11 budget committee for review. After the joint legislative budget committee
12 reviews the expenditure plan, the department shall award the grant monies
13 pursuant to subsection E of this section.

14 H. The department shall submit quarterly reports to the joint
15 legislative budget committee on the amount of grant monies awarded and
16 city, town or fire district expenditures made using awarded grant monies.