
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2020

Fiscal Services Division

January 7, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Volunteer Fire Fighter Training and Equipment

Purpose and History

The Fire Service Training Bureau, as operated by the State Fire Marshal, a division of the Department of Public Safety (DPS), provides basic training to all fire departments in the State, including the 786 departments operated solely by volunteer fire fighters. Approximately 90.0%, or 15,300, of the 17,000 total fire fighters in Iowa serve on a volunteer basis. Iowa Code section [55.2](#) provides volunteer fire fighters with job protection when responding to fire calls. Iowa Code section [100B.14](#) provides volunteer fire fighters with additional protection by prohibiting a public or private employer from terminating the employment of an employee for joining a volunteer emergency services unit or organization.

Minimum training standards apply to all fire fighters, volunteer or career. The majority of training is available at no cost to most volunteer fire fighters, but such volunteers do not receive college credit hours for their volunteer service.

Funding — State General Fund

In past years, training for volunteer fire fighters has been provided by the Volunteer Fire Fighter Preparedness Fund, which receives limited amounts of funding from the State income tax checkoff for fire fighters, as well as gifts, bequests, and donations. The average revenue collected from the checkoff totals approximately \$32,000 annually.

For FY 2020, [Senate File 638](#) (FY 2020 Standing Appropriations Act) appropriated a total of \$50,000 to the DPS to be used for costs associated with training and equipment needs of volunteer fire fighters. This is a one-time appropriation for FY 2020.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [80](#) and sections [55.2](#) and [100B.14](#)
Iowa Administrative Code [661—259](#)

Budget Unit Number

59502R10001

Doc ID 1126235

More Information

Fire Service Training Bureau, Department of Public Safety:
dps.iowa.gov/state-fire-marshal/fire-service-training

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