



IOWA FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

THE VOICE OF IOWA'S FIRE FIGHTERS

- Consider sponsoring three to four pilot programs to encourage regionalism.
 - This would provide a competitive funding project much like the federal SAFER program for departments to share services. Examples could be a full-time staff person to do manage grants, training, equipment maintenance and purchasing for an entire county or consolidated fire department district.

- Funding options for fire department budgets
 - Reinstate the ability to form benefited fire districts
 - A local tax that can be approved by the local voters, similar to Local Option Sales Tax

- Recruitment and Retention
 - The number of people joining volunteer fire departments is dropping nationwide. In the near future, most Iowa departments will be facing a severe shortage of personnel.
 - Job Protection Act to protect a firefighter's job if they are at an emergency call and must be late for work.
 - Tax Credits:
 - Tax credit for a bonafide emergency volunteer
 - Tax Credit for an employer who allows their employees to respond to emergency calls.

- State Fire Marshal's office
 - Many departments in Iowa heavily rely on Special Agents to perform investigations for cause and origin.
 - Agents do not have any overtime authority to respond to calls on weekends or evenings requiring volunteers to stand watch at the scene for hours sometimes days.
 - Agents are also not available to perform seminars and training to the local emergency responders.
 - Continue funding for the Volunteer Firefighter Training Fund
 - Support a Centralized Firefighter Training Facility
 - A central staff is necessary to monitor the regional facilities, manage the certification process and oversee the various training curriculum.
 - Continue funding for the Regional Fire Training Facilities.