



REQUESTED INFORMATION

*Doug Nelson, State Fire Marshal*

House Industry, Business and Labor Committee

HB 1086

January 9, 2025

To Representative Warrey, Chairman House Industry, Business and Labor Committee, and Committee members,

This additional information is being provided in an effort to answer questions brought by the committee during the hearing on HB 1086 on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Representative Kasper requested detailed budget numbers. As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, the State Fire Marshal's Office has spent a total of \$10,128.79 from Fund 374 (the Reduced Cigarette Ignition Propensity fund). These funds were spent in ways and resources to carry-out the responsibilities or directly related to the responsibilities of this fund as prescribed in code.

The trial balance report for the fund is as follows for the biennium up to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024:

**Balance Sheet Accounts**

105251	Cash & Equiv at BND - Current	464,303.58
<b>Total Balance Sheet Accounts</b>		<b><u>464,303.58</u></b>

**Revenues**

420175	Registration Fees	71,250.00
490374	Tsfr Fm from AG	403,182.37
<b>Total Revenues</b>		<b><u>474,432.37</u></b>

**Expenditures**

511005	Salaries Full Time	6,322.02
516015	Employee Assist Program	2.33
516055	Health Insurance	2,492.05
516075	Basic Life Insurance	0.42
516165	Section 125 Adm Fee	12.50
516170	Social Security	471.96
516175	State Retirement	813.99
516205	Unemployment Insurance	2.34
532140	Testing Materials	11.18
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b><u>10,128.79</u></b>

Representative Schauer requested further explanation and detail of public safety initiatives the proceeds of this fund could be used for outside of the Ignition Propensity for Cigarettes program. Our focus for

having further authority to spend these funds would be to support public safety equipment, public safety education, and fire prevention training for fire chiefs.

**Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Distribution program.** This program would be designed to assist in getting smoke and carbon monoxide (co) alarms distributed and installed for high-risk populations and homes that can't or struggle to afford their own fire safety equipment. This would include funding available to purchase or install smoke and CO alarms for special or other needs populations such as bed shakers, voice alarms, and strobe notification alarms. The program would also identify schools, childcares and state buildings where carbon monoxide alarms may not be installed due to changes in fire codes, and enable assistance to distribute and install carbon monoxide alarms in these occupancies.

- Biennium Budget estimate:
  - o Equipment (smoke/CO alarms, special needs alarms) - \$10,000.00

**Firesafe Cannula Kits (oxygen tubing thermal cut-offs) Program.** These kits can help prevent further injury and fire from smoking while on medical oxygen fires. The State of North Dakota has had multiple fatal fires resulting from smoking while on oxygen over the last few years. Oxygen tubing thermal cut-offs can help prevent further damage and injury if a cigarette ignites oxygen and tubing. Our goal through this program would be to work with the Department of Health and Human Services to identify high-risk populations and make this equipment available.

- Biennium Budget estimate:
  - o Equipment (thermal cutoffs, tubing connections) - \$5,000.00

**Public Education Fire Safety Videos and Campaigns.** This program would aim to utilize our current website and social media, but to build upon it with fire safety educational messages geared to various high-risk populations. This would include, but not be limited to, childcare fire safety videos, school age fire safety program, college age fire safety program, and others as identified or needed.

- Biennium Budget estimate:
  - o Equipment/services (video equipment, production services) - \$10,000.00

**Fire Prevention Instructional Videos for Fire Chiefs.** This program would provide online video training for various types of inspections that fire chiefs are expected to complete, and basic fire investigation procedures. The State Fire Marshals Office receives requests regularly from volunteer fire chiefs to provide further training or have training resources available for the noted topics. This would help expand fire safety inspection and investigation procedures throughout the state, resulting in more effective, efficient and consistent fire prevention.

- Biennium Budget estimate:
  - o Equipment/services (video equipment, production services) - \$10,000.00

There are other programs and initiatives that could help public fire safety and services to fire departments in North Dakota, but the above summarized plans are where our office is most prepared to make a difference. I hope this helps answer the questions from testimony. Please let me know if the committee has any further questions I can help with at this time.

Respectfully,

Douglas Nelson