



# NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL QUARTERLY REPORT

DECEMBER 2021

**MIKE CAUSEY**, INSURANCE COMMISSIONER & STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
**BRIAN TAYLOR**, CHIEF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

## BUDGET & LEGISLATIVE MANDATES

- VFD Grant Funding (COVID Impact Grant) - \$10,000 to each VFD that meets GS 58-87-1. (\$8M)
- Supplement Grant for VFD's – Up to \$35K equipment grant with no match.
- Emergency Reserve Grant – Up to \$50K for Emergency Disaster Funding for all FDs (\$1M)
- Fire Safety and Awareness – Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Funding (\$60K recurring) will be divided between the Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) and CRR Division for prevention and education activities and Vision 20/20 Statewide Collaboration and Engagement Framework (SCEF) Survey.
- 2 FTEs for Forensic Fire Investigators for FIU.
- 2 FTEs CID Arson Fraud Investigators assigned to FIU to include K-9 program.
- 1 FTEs for Building Code Enforcement Engineer II – To assist with Education and Fire Interpretation needs.
- AFFF Foam Reporting Program with UNC Collaboratory – Will require 3 FTEs and funding to run the program which will be paid by the Collaboratory by MOU and will utilize Image Trend Elite for storage and incident reporting.
- \$3.5M for Land Development for NC Training Center – Will hire a Project/Construction Manager to Develop. Remaining funds to be sent to the county by an MOU to go toward the Training Center.
- \$28M grant to Stanly County to building NC Emergency Training Center as a Public/Private Partnership with OSFM, NCANG, and Stanly County.
- Firefighter Cancer Benefit Program Insurance Policy – FF Cancers that are identified by the CDC - \$25K lump sum plus \$12K for out-of-pocket expenses per cancer (limit 2 per this 2-year program) plus a disability benefit of up to \$5k for paid and \$1,500 for volunteer firefighters. (\$15M)
  - DOI will follow state statute and run the policy through the NC Association of Independent Insurance Agents and the NC Association of Insurance Agents (Big I and NCAIA).

- 23 Disaster Building Inspectors and Trainers to be deployed in the counties effected by Hurricane Florence to catch up on the rebuild. Funded by NC Disaster Recovery (NCORE).
- Cancer Benefit Program – \$7.5M shall be used to establish and administer a pilot program to provide health benefits to eligible firefighters with a new diagnosis of cancer on or after 1/1/2022.
  - The pilot program will end on June 30, 2023, but claims for health benefits filed by that date shall be paid as long as funds appropriated for the pilot program are available.
  - The department is conducting the required 5-year audit of the Fund.
  - For the 2021-2022 fiscal year and the 2022-2023 fiscal year, no eligible unit or eligible entity shall be required to submit to the State Fire & Rescue Commission any payment to participate in the Fund. How refunds will be executed is still to be decided.
- \$200,000 for two new regional offices.
- High School and Middle School Catastrophic Athletic Insurance.

## **SPECIAL FUNDING**

- \$250,000 for a VFD Grant of \$5K to the 50 lowest funded departments in NC.
- \$250,000 for a FF Mental Health Treatment Assistance Program.

## **RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION RESOURCE FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEFS**

[www.ncosfm.gov/VFBasicTraining](http://www.ncosfm.gov/VFBasicTraining)