



# CITY OF CONCORD

*New Hampshire's Main Street™*

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

### REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** John A. Chisholm, Fire Chief

**DATE:** June 13, 2024

**SUBJECT:** A report from the Fire Chief authorizing the City Manager or his designee to retroactively apply for grants and accept funds totaling up to nineteen thousand five-hundred dollars (\$19,500.00) from the Department of Safety, Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services for classes already taken during 2024 Fiscal Year 2024 for the purpose of reimbursement of overtime and backfill for Fire Department members to attend Technical Rescue courses.

#### **Recommendation**

The Fire Department requests that the City Council accept this report.

#### **Background**

The Department of Safety, Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services offers a variety of technician-level training courses. These classes occasionally qualify for grant funded reimbursement of overtime and back fill funds. There is no City match required for this grant. The Fire Department would like the ability to use these grant funds to offset training costs for Fire Department members.

#### **Discussion**

The Fire Department provides technical rescue service to the citizens and guests of the City of Concord. Technical rescue certifications and trainings are critical to effectively and safely mitigate technical rescue incidents. These rescue specialties include confined space rescue, swift water rescue, trench rescue, and high-angle (rope) rescue among others. The Department of Safety, Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services has secured funding for grants which covers up to 100% of the overtime and back fill related expenses for these classes. The funding mechanism for these grants changed during the fiscal year, and a formal grant approval process is now required to be followed before reimbursement that was formerly automatic can be secured. NH Governor and Council approved funding on May 29, 2024 and reserved up to \$42,900 to reimburse the Concord Fire Department for classes taken by its members. Nineteen thousand five-hundred (\$19,500) dollars of this allocation were for

classes already taken in FY24. This request is to retroactively authorize the grant applications and accept reimbursement for these grant-funded training opportunities that were taken during FY24, not to exceed \$19,500. These funds from the State of NH will be available only until August 31, 2024.