

Understanding the OSFC Fire Company and EMS Grant

Everything fire and EMS company leaders and stakeholders need
to know about the FCEMS grant



OSFC Key Responsibilities & Programs

- Training, Certification and Inspection
- Financial Support through Grants and Low-interest Loans
- Recruitment and Retention Assistance
- Community Risk Reduction & PennFIRS Data Reporting
- Line of Duty Death Support

Agenda

- Meet the OSFC's Grant & Loan Team
- The FCEMS Grant by the numbers
- Understanding the FCEMS grant formula
- Improvements for the upcoming 2025-2026 grant cycle
- Important grant cycle dates

Meet the OSFC Grant Team

- **Evelyn Madenford – Grants and Loans Administrator**
 - emadenford@pa.gov
 - **Phone: 717-651-2205**
- **Grant Program Support Team (Phone 717-651-2200)**
 - **Meska Lewis**
 - **Rachel Carlson**
 - **Ginny Brandt**
 - **Lisa Saul**

The FCEMS Grants by the numbers

- **16,891 applications submitted since 18-19 cycle***
- **2,413 avg. applications per year***
 - **2,540 for current 24/25 cycle (Fire – 2,013 EMS - 527**
 - **Increase in 63 fire applications and 23 EMS applications**
- **80% fire companies | 20% EMS companies***
- **\$189,970,424 total awarded funds since 18-19 cycle****
- **\$31,661,737 average annual total awarded funds****
- **\$14,108 average fire company award****
- **\$9,846 average EMS company award****

*Includes data from 18/19 grant cycle – 24/25 grant cycle

**Includes data from 18/19 grant cycle – 23/24 grant cycle

Understanding the FCEMS Grant Formula

- Funding Sources
- Base Amount & Maximum Amount
- “Over-base” Calculation & Point system

Understanding the FCEMS Grant Formula

Funding Sources

- State Gaming & Property Tax Relief Funds - \$30MM
 - 80% directed to fire companies = \$26,400,000
 - 20% directed to EMS companies = \$3,600,000
- Fireworks Tax Funds - Fluctuates
 - \$1,500,000 allocated to EMS
 - Fluctuating amount based on fireworks taxes received allocated 50/50 to fire and EMS companies.
- Bomb Squad Rollover
 - Fluctuating amount based on money not requested from bomb squad grant program

2024-2025 Grant Funding Amounts

| Source | Fire Company | EMS |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Gaming and Property Tax Relief Funds | \$26,400,000.00 | \$3,600,000.00 |
| Fireworks Tax Direct Allocation | | \$1,500,000.00 |
| Fireworks Balance | \$3,025,496.00 | \$3,025,496.00 |
| Bomb Squad Rollover | \$186,619.58 | \$186,619.57 |
| Total Amounts | \$29,612,115.58 | \$8,312,115.57 |
| 23-24 Amounts | \$30,143,076.00 | \$8,843,076.00 |
| Difference | -\$530,960.42 | -\$530,960.43 |

Understanding the FCEMS Grant Formula

Base Amount

- Base amount is used as the starting point for the grant formula calculations.
- Requests less-than or equal to base are granted at amount of request.
- Requests above base amount implement point system.
- Base Amount is set by OSFC staff and is applied only to Fire Companies.
- Base amount for merged companies is multiplied by number of merged companies

Maximum Amount

- Fire Company: \$20,000/year
- EMS: \$15,000/year
- Mergers: Court-approved merger can apply for combined amount for 20 years

Understanding the FCEMS Grant Formula

“Over-base” Calculation and Point System

- Any requests over the base amount are determined by a certification point system that awards 1 point for each IFSAC/ProBoard Firefighter I or Firefighter II certified member, up to 20
- Any remaining funds that are not allocated are distributed equally among applicants that have not reached their requested amount

Grant Calculation Example

- Fire Company Requested Amount = \$20,000
- Base amount = \$12,000
- Value of certification point = \$150
- There is a remainder of \$15 available for this application
- Fire Company has 10 certified members

| | Value |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Base Amount | \$12,000 |
| Certification Points | \$1,500 |
| Remainder per company | \$15 |
| Total | \$13,515 |



Improvements to Grant Software

- **Change to Commonwealth's *Keystone* Login**
 - Will not have to create new username and password each year
 - Keystone login is universal throughout commonwealth
 - Note: You may already have a Keystone login from other grant programs and other agency use
 - This year only, users must tie their Keystone Login to the login that is currently on file from the grant application from September (instructions will be sent to all registrants post-webinar)
 - Adds new levels of security

Improvements to Grant Software

- **Electronic Signature eliminates need for print > sign > scan**
- **Banking info is requested during application process and doesn't need to be done in-person**
 - **More time to clean up banking issues ahead of time**
 - **Prevent banking issues by logging in to payable services and ensure the bank account info there matches what is on your application**
- **Applications, grant agreements, and final reports will be saved and stored year to year in software**

Important FCEMS Grant Dates

- **Sept 6th (by Sept 8 every year): Application period opens**
- **Oct 20th (45 days after opening every year): Application period closes**
- **Dec 19th (60 days after application closes every year): OSFC approves/disapproves all applications**
- **May 30th Signed grant agreements must be returned to OSFC**
- **August 1st: New company and merger documentation deadline for next application period**
- **September 2nd: Final Report Deadline**
- **All 24/25 important dates can be found [on our website](#)**

Understanding the OSFC Fire Company and EMS Grant

Everything fire and EMS company leaders and stakeholders need to know about the FCEMS grant

Email for additional questions:
ra-vfcvasgp@pa.gov

