

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
 - PSFA – Physical location in Lewistown for advanced training
 - Curriculum design, instructor accreditation, certification accreditation
- Recruitment and Retention assistance
 - Highlight: Jr. Firefighter School Programs
- Community Risk Reduction & PennFIRS Data Reporting
 - Highlight: Free CRR Best Practices Courses
- Line of Duty Death Support
- Funding support through grants and low-interest loans

Please save questions for the end

- **Will take questions via the Q&A feature**
- **Will give you time at the end to submit your question**

Agenda

- Meet the OSFC's Grant & Loan Team
- The FCEMS Grant by the numbers
- Understanding the FCEMS grant formula
- 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

- **2,413 avg. applications per year**
 - **2,510 for current 25/26 cycle**
 - **Fire – 2,007**
 - **EMS – 503**
- **Decrease in 6 fire applications and 24 EMS applications**
 - **Increase of 9 fire company mergers**

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 based on taxes collected
 - \$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 reimbursement program

2025-2026 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	\$3,030,351.91	\$3,030,351.90
Bomb Squad Rollover	\$145,026.36	\$145,026.36
Total Amounts	\$29,575,378.27	\$8,275,378.26
24-25 Amounts	\$29,612,115.58	\$8,312,115.57
Difference	-\$36,740.31	-\$36,737.31

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 higher) 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
- Fire Company has 10 certified members
- Remainder from unallocated funds: \$15
- Base amount = \$12,000
- Value of certification point = \$150

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

25-26 Actual Amounts

Base Amount	\$12,000.00
Certification Points	\$ 206.12
Remainder per company	\$ 14.15-\$14.25
Company with 0 FF1:	\$12,014.25 (\$12,000+\$14.25)
Company with 10 FF1:	\$14,075.40 (\$12,000+\$2,061.20+\$14.20)
Company with 20 FF1:	\$16,136.55 (\$12,000+\$4,122.40+\$14.15)

2025/2026 FCEMS Grant Dates

- **Sept 5th (by Sept 8 every year): Application period opened**
- **Oct 24th (45 days after opening every year): Application period closed**
- **Dec 19th (60 days after application closes every year): OSFC approved/disapproved all applications**
- **May 31st Signed grant agreements must be returned to OSFC**
- **August 1st: New company and merger documentation deadline for next application period**
- **September 1st: Final Report Deadline**
- **All 25/26 important dates can be found [on our website](#)**

Questions?



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Email for additional questions:
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