



November 19, 2023

Governor Jim Pillen and  
Brandon Metzler, Clerk of the Legislature  
State Capitol  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Governor Pillen and Mr. Metzler,

Nebraska Revised Statute 81-827 requires the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to contract all costs to maintain one single-engine air tanker (SEAT) in Nebraska available to provide aerial suppression flights in fighting wildfires. NEMA is also required to report annually, no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>, to the Governor and the Clerk of the Legislature regarding deployment of the SEAT.

The 2023 fire deployment for Tanker 854 was the tenth year of the program. Process and procedures have resulted in an average response time of 15 minutes from request to wheels up. This year, there were no delays in response and no denials for deployments.

Nebraska works in coordination with surrounding states to allow deployment of the Nebraska funded SEAT to locations outside of the state as long as fires within the State of Nebraska receive priority for deployment of the Nebraska SEAT over requests to support fires elsewhere. The Great Plains Interagency Dispatch Center (GPC) manages the deployment of all SEAT aircraft in the region.

The most recent contract/activation period for the Nebraska SEAT occurred April 13 through August 9, 2023 (109 operational days). A list of aerial suppression flights flown in 2023 (Table 1) as well as a report of costs associated with the SEAT program for 2023 (Table 2) are attached.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ervin L. Portis  
Assistant Director

Attachments as stated

SEAT REPORT 2023      TABLE 1: AERIAL SUPPRESSION FLIGHTS FLOWN

T-854

Date	Fire Name	Location	Acres	Sorties	Gallons	Total Flight Time
4/12/23	MOBILIZED					
4/13/23	Cooksley Fire	Near Dunning	44,000	2	1,249	2.73
4/18/23	Ferry Flight	From Valentine to Ainsworth		1	0	0.50
5/1/23	(Proficiency Flight)	Ainsorth vicinity		1	650*	0.52
5/3/23	Natick Fire	Nebraska National Forest (Halsey)	1,849	4	2,705	3.92
5/6/23	Road Runner Fire	North of Crawford		1	670	2.63
5/23/23	(Proficiency Flight)	Ainsworth vicinity		1	700*	1.00
6/7/23	(Proficiency Flight)	Ainsorth vicinity		2	1,400*	1.10
6/25/23	(Proficiency Flight)	Ainsorth vicinity		3	2,100*	1.37
7/9/23	(Proficiency Flight)	Ainsorth vicinity		1	600*	1.00
7/23/23	(Proficiency Flight)	O'Neill vicinity		1	1,400*	1.44
7/28/23	Battle Fire	SW of Rapid City, SD	1	1	720	3.31
8/9/23	DEMOBILIZED					
		<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>45,850</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12,194</b>	<b>19.52</b>

\*Water (6,850 gallons)

SEAT REPORT 2023 TABLE 2: SEAT COSTS  
T-854

	Standby (AV)	Flight Time (FT)	Ext Pilot (EP)	Ext Driver (ED)	Per Diem (PD)	Support Truck (SM)	Relief Crew Cost	Mobilization/ Demobilization
4/12/23 - 4/25/23	13	3.23	2	5	30	380	0	1
4/26/23 - 5/09/23	14	7.07	5	5	33	64	1	
5/10/23 - 5/23/23	14	1	0	0	34	210	1	
5/24/23 - 6/03/23	11	0	0	0	28	165	1	
**6/04/23 - 6/17/23	12	1.01	0	0	24	180	0	
6/18/23 - 7/01/23	12	1.37	0	0	24	180	0	
7/02/23 - 7/15/23	12	1	0	0	24	180	0	
7/16/23 - 7/29/23	12	4.75	4	4	24	180	0	
7/30/23 - 8/09/23	9	0	0	0	18	135	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>19.43</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>1674</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Price</b>	<b>\$3,245.00</b>	<b>\$3,570.00</b>	<b>\$59.00</b>	<b>\$34.00</b>	<b>\$157.00</b>	<b>\$2.45</b>	<b>\$2,090.00</b>	<b>\$7,497.00</b>
<b>**Amendment 3 Increase</b>	<b>\$3,260.00</b>	<b>\$3,586.00</b>	<b>\$59.00</b>	<b>\$34.00</b>	<b>\$157.00</b>	<b>\$2.45</b>	<b>\$2,090.00</b>	<b>\$7,496.50</b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$354,560.00</b>	<b>\$69,495.18</b>	<b>\$649.00</b>	<b>\$476.00</b>	<b>\$37,523.00</b>	<b>\$4,101.30</b>	<b>\$6,270.00</b>	<b>\$14,993.50</b>

Total Contract Amount billed for 2022/23 \$448,074.73

2022 Allotment Carryover \$10,616.73  
2023 Allotment \$362,520.00

4/12/23 - 6/03/23 Early Start (\$259,361.96) + SD Fire on 7/28/23  
June 3, 2022 - Year-To-Date Expenses (\$242,835.43)  
Paid through the GEF \$259,361.96

Balance Remaining \$130,301.30

Additional Costs:	
TSB	\$423.32
Freight	\$15.77
Meals – Travel Status	\$52.50
USDA	\$12,000.00

Carry-Over, as of 11/08/23 \$117,809.71