



JIM PILLEN, GOVERNOR

November 26, 2024

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 1st, to the Governor and the Clerk of the Legislature regarding deployment of the SEAT.

The 2024 fire deployment for Tanker 475 was the eleventh 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 reported 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 Nebraska SEAT deployed to five fires in South Dakota during 2024. Nebraska SEAT costs associated with those fires will be reimbursed by the State of South Dakota. 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 July 8 through November 1, 2024 (116 operational days). A list of aerial suppression flights flown in 2024 (Table 1) as well as a report of costs associated with the SEAT program for 2024 (Table 2) are attached.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ervin L. Portis
Assistant Director

Attachments as stated

MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG W. STRONG, DIRECTOR
NEBRASKA MILITARY DEPARTMENT | JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS
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Date	Fire Name	Location	Acres	Sorties	Gallons	Flight Time
7/13/2024	Yukon Fire	6M S of Caputa, SD	2	2	450	1.82
7/16/2024	Detroit Fire	9M E of Chadron	6	6	900	2.87
7/24/2024	105 Fire	5M NW of Sidney	275	2	920	2.41
7/25/2024	Camden Fire	3M N of Scottsbluff	167	8	4,010	3.23
7/27/2024	Round Top Fire	5M SW of Hot Springs, SD	75	2	460	2.43
7/28/2024	Ferry Flight	Hot Springs to Scottsbluff				0.52
7/28/2024	Culvert Fire	12M SW of Bridgeport	1	7	3,570	4.42
7/28/2024	Summit Fire	8M SW of Gering	93	3	1,485	1.63
7/30/2024	Shriner Fire	5M NW of Dalton	300	3	1,480	2.68
7/31/2024	Rock Creek Fire	1M SE of R.C. Fish Hatchery	2,750	2	900	4.73
8/11/2024	Chip Fire	SE of Gering	2	3	1,490	1.78
8/15/2024	Blackpipe Fire	E of Martin, SD	58	2	940	4.30
8/20/2024	Cummins Fire	S of Chadron	1	1		0.05
8/21/2024	Barnes Canyon Fire	11M E of Custer, SD	12			0.42
8/24/2024	CAT Fire	10M NE of Chadron	4	1	460	1.67
9/5/2024	West Berry Fire	8M ENE of Valentine	30	1	450	1.93
9/5/2024	Sunny Brook Fire	20M E of Valentine	25	5	2,790	3.04
9/6/2024	Ferry Flight	Ainsworth to Scottsbluff				1.63
9/7/2024	West Berry Fire	8M ENE of Valentine		1	470	1.58
9/8/2024	West Berry Fire	8M ENE of Valentine		1		1.43
9/11/2024	County Line Fire	5M N of Long Pine	60	5	1,980	4.95
9/12/2024	343 Fire	12M E of Crawford	11	2	990	1.65
9/12/2024	Power Dam Road Fire	1-2M NW of White River, SD	15,320	2	470	3.72
9/13/2024	Javelin Fire	W of Crawford	50	3	1,440	3.48
9/15/2024	WNEA	Training Exercise - Gering		3	1,580*	2.02
9/15/2024	Game Ranch Fire	4M S of Bridgeport	200	1	475	1.00
9/18/2024	Bronco Fire	11M NW of Crawford		2	950	2.57
9/19/2024	Bronco Fire	11M NW of Crawford				0.72
9/21/2024	Bronco Fire	11M NW of Crawford	1,069	1		0.63
9/29/2024	October Fire	8M WSW of Chadron		1	475	1.40
9/30/2024	October Fire	8M WSW of Chadron	275	2	950	2.63
9/30/2024	Oak Creek Fire	11M NE of Bassett		2	520	2.61
10/1/2024	Oak Creek Fire	11M NE of Bassett				1.99
10/3/2024	Jackson Fire	4M NW of Valentine	20	1	470	1.93
10/3/2024	Oak Creek Fire	11M NE of Bassett	90	1	470	2.50
10/10/2024	Ferry Flight	Scottsbluff to Ainsworth				1.52
10/14/2024	Kay Fire	2M S of Dunning	150	3	1,565	3.24
10/15/2024	Axel Fire	16M S of Crawford		3	1,485	3.76
10/16/2024	Axel Fire	16M S of Crawford	86	1		1.32
10/24/2024	North Stapleton Fire	15M N of Stapleton	2,000	1	480	1.68
		TOTALS	23,231	84	35,075*	89.89

*Water (1,580 gallons)

SEAT REPORT 2024
T-475

TABLE 2: SEAT COSTS

	Standby (AV)	Flight Time (FT)	Ext Pilot (EP)	Ext Driver (ED)	Per Diem (PD)	Support Truck (SM)	Relief Crew Cost	Misc.	Mobilization / Demob
7/8/2024 - 7/21/2024	13.5	4.69	8	8	32	168	1	0	1
7/22/2024 - 8/4/2024	14.0	22.05	14	14	36	176	1	0	0
8/5/2024 - 8/18/2024	14.0	6.08	6	6	34	168	1	0	0
8/19/2024 - 9/1/2024	14.0	2.14	4	4	34	168	1	0	0
9/2/2024 - 9/15/2024	14.0	26.43	10	10	34	168	1	1	0
9/16/2024 - 9/29/2024	14.0	5.32	1	1	34	168	1	0	0
9/30/2024 - 10/13/2024	14.0	13.18	4	4	34	421	1	0	0
10/14/2024 - 10/27/2024	14.0	10.00	2	2	29	168	1	0	0
10/28/2024 - 11/1/2024	5.0	0	0	0	10	684	0	0	1
Totals	116.5	89.89	49	49	277	2,289	8	1	2
Price/Rate	\$6,000.00	\$3,602.50	\$75.00	\$55.00	\$166.00	\$2.45	\$2,117.50	\$200.00	\$7,496.50
Total Cost	\$699,000.00	\$323,828.74	\$3,675.00	\$2,695.00	\$45,982.00	\$5,608.05	\$16,940.00	\$200.00	\$14,993.00

Total Contract Amount (2024) \$1,112,921.79

2023 Allotment Carryover \$117,809.71
2024 Allotment \$362,520.00

July 8, 2024 - Year-To-Date Expenses \$(1,124,921.79)
Paid through the GEF \$644,592.08
Balance Remaining \$0.00

Additional Costs:	
USDA (Great Plains Interagency Dispatch Center)	\$12,000.00
Carry-Over, as of 11/08/24	\$0.00