

PREPARED BY: Scott Danigole  
 DATE PREPARED: February 15, 2023  
 PHONE: 402-471-0055

**LB 655**

Revision: 00

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE**

<b>ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)</b>				
	<b>FY 2023-24</b>		<b>FY 2024-25</b>	
	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>
GENERAL FUNDS	\$1,125,000		\$1,125,000	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS	\$2,895,000		\$2,112,000	
OTHER FUNDS				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$4,020,000</b>		<b>\$3,237,000</b>	

**Any Fiscal Notes received from state agencies and political subdivisions are attached following the Legislative Fiscal Analyst Estimate.**

LB 655 appropriates \$1,125,000 per year from the General Fund to the State Fire Marshal for fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25. The purpose of the appropriation is for the State Fire Marshal to partner with the Nebraska Forest Service by providing a state match on a Community Wildfire Defense Grant and to establish two statewide firefighting crews with technical expertise to support rural communities.

The State Fire Marshal states that the federal grant requires a 3:1 match. The federal grant is on a four-year spending plan. The two statewide firefighting crews will be comprised of a total 23.0 FTE. Start-up costs are included in the FY2023-24 estimate to address items such as personal protection equipment, home office set up, office equipment, and radios. Additionally, the State Fire Marshal would purchase four Type Six engines and two Type Four engines. The engine expenditures are split to reflect three engines being purchased each year of the biennium.

The State Fire Marshal estimates federal grant funding in the amounts of \$2,895,000 in FY2023-24 and \$2,112,000 in FY2024-25.

There is no basis to disagree with these estimates.

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY &amp; POLT. SUB. RESPONSE</b>		
<b>LB: 655</b>	<b>AM:</b>	<b>AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska State Fire Marshal (021)</b>
REVIEWED BY: Joe Wilcox	DATE: 02/13/2023	PHONE: (402) 471-4178
COMMENTS: No basis to disagree with the Nebraska State Fire Marshal estimate of Potential Fiscal Impact to the Agency from LB 655.		

Please complete ALL (5) blanks in the first three lines.

**2023**

**LB<sup>(1)</sup> 655**

**FISCAL NOTE**

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: <sup>(2)</sup> State Fire Marshal

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> Regina Shields/Deb Hostetler

Date Prepared: <sup>(4)</sup> 02/13/23

Phone: <sup>(5)</sup> 402-471-9477

**ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION**

	<u>FY 2023-24</u>		<u>FY 2024-25</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	<u>1,125,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,125,000</u>	<u>0</u>
CASH FUNDS	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
FEDERAL FUNDS	<u>2,895,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,112,000</u>	<u>0</u>
OTHER FUNDS	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><b>4,020,000</b></u>	<u><b>0</b></u>	<u><b>3,237,000</b></u>	<u><b>0</b></u>

**Explanation of Estimate:**

LB 655 would appropriate \$1,125,000 from the General Fund in both FY 23-24 and FY 24-25 to the State Fire Marshal Agency. The Agency will partner with the Nebraska Forest Service to use this money to provide a state match for a Community Wildfire Defense Grant. The grant requires a 3:1 match and during the biennium State Funding of \$2.25 million would be matched from a federal funding pool of \$6.75 million. The Federal grant is on a four-year spending plan with a one year no cost extension available. The agency would need \$2,895,000 during FY23-24 in federal funds due to startup costs for the program. During FY24-25, the request for federal funds would decrease to \$2,112,000. Total federal funds for the biennium would be \$5,007,000.

The bill identifies that the funding is to be used to establish two statewide firefighting crews with technical expertise to support rural facilities, to provide extra resources for wildfires, and to assist local fire departments in prescribed burning to control the spread of Eastern red Cedar trees.

To establish the two statewide firefighting crews with the technical expertise required in the bill the Agency will use the State and Federal funds to create a new division staffed by the addition of 23 new personnel. The salary and benefits for these positions will be \$2,104,966 in FY23-24 and \$2,205,584 in FY24-25 with an assumed 5% increase in salaries and 4% increase in insurance during the second year. These positions require the agency to lease 23 additional trucks from AS-TSB and factoring in expenses for lodging and meal per diems travel costs for projected to be \$376,125.

The Operating costs, which include items such as PPE, home office set up, office equipment, radios, general agency processes, and application/advertisement costs for these positions will be \$1,188,909 in FY 23-24 and \$315,000 in FY24-25. The higher costs during the first year are associated with the initial outlay to purchase and install radios, emergency lights and sirens. The Agency will also purchase four Type Six engines and two Type Four engines, three in each year of the biennium at a cost of \$350,000 in FY23-24 and \$350,000 in FY 24-25. The additional costs to store, maintain, and insure the trucks are included in the operating budget.

**BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

**Personal Services:**

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
	<u>23-24</u>	<u>24-25</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Chief Deputy	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>78,000</u>	<u>81,900</u>
Unit Leaders	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>175,000</u>	<u>183,750</u>
Prescribed Burn Boss	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>150,000</u>	<u>157,500</u>
Engine Boss/Single Resource Boss	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>390,000</u>	<u>409,500</u>

Wildland Firefighter 2	6	6	360,000	378,000
Wildland Firefighter 1	6	6	300,000	315,000
<b>Benefits</b> .....			651,966	679,934
<b>Operating</b> .....			1,188,909	305,291
<b>Travel</b> .....			376,125	376,125
<b>Capital outlay</b> .....			350,000	350,000
<b>Aid</b> .....			0	0
<b>Capital improvements</b> .....			0	0
<b>TOTAL</b> .....			4,020,000	3,237,000