Alcohol And Gambling Enforcement

ARMER/911 Program

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

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Minnesota State Patrol

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State Fire Marshal and Pipeline Safety

State Fire Marshal

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Restoring Base Budget Funding to the State Bomb Squad Teams

Background

In the 2021 Legislative session, the state fire marshal division (SFMD) inadvertently omitted a significant portion of the funding for the state's bomb squad teams. Additionally, the SFMD has recognized financial deficiencies in the bomb squad operations:

- Currently, state law fails to recognize explosive detection K-9's with regard to reimbursement requests. Often, explosive dogs are requested or used in order to assist with bomb sweeps and state bomb squad response. These K-9's are a valuable tool to the bomb squads and do come with a cost for bomb squads. Being able to list the use of a K-9 as a reimbursable expense will assist bomb squads to recover actual costs for the total response.

- There is a need to expand the allowable reimbursable state asset bomb squad responses to include dignitary explosive protection sweeps, large event explosive sweeps, and provide for explosive detection security at large scale state events; which currently go unfunded.

Rationale

The cost drivers are to cover the fiscal obligation of the state for conducting bomb sweeps and the use of K-9 explosive detection dogs. When either of these services are currently used the cost is shouldered by the contracted community instead of being fully funded by the state. The funds would be used to reimburse bomb squads for the services rendered. The four state bomb squads are under contract for services and this would allow the state to pay for the services of dignitary sweeps, special event sweeps and use of K-9 explosive detection dogs.