



MINNESOTA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
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March 27, 2025

To: Members of the Minnesota House Public Safety Committee

The Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education (MBFTE) is requesting a base budget appropriation increase of \$2 million to help meet the needs of firefighter training across the state. In our 2016 strategic planning, it was identified that fire departments have an annual need of \$200 per firefighter in training reimbursements to meet their training needs. Today, our current base budget does not support that need, which is now a 9-year-old study. The training needs of fire departments have increased since 2016 due to new techniques, technology, and standards. The MBFTE will be conducting a study in the next year to provide guidance on the training needs of the fire service to meet the evolving risks in our state.

The document that accompanies this letter shows the appropriations to the MBFTE since 2014, the amount of training reimbursement requests by the fire service, and the overall difference between them. You will note that the only year there was not a deficit was 2020, when COVID put a halt to firefighter training for some time. An annual increase of \$2 million to the MBFTE allows for more training dollars to go to local fire departments, which better supports firefighters' abilities to perform their duties, ultimately reducing property loss and fatalities from fire.

Respectfully,

Jim Fisher, MBFTE Board Member
MN Association of Townships