

FACT SHEET – ATHLETIC TRANSPORTATION REQUEST

PURPOSE

NMMI seeks an additional \$525,000 in legislative funding to address athletic transportation expense shortfalls. NMMI currently receives \$327,700 in legislative funding for athletic transportation. A total amount of \$850,000 is being Requested to fully fund NMMI athletic transportation costs to continue providing NMMI cadets the safest transportation to athletic events.

HISTORY

NMMI currently has 24 athletic teams: eight at the junior college level and 16 at the high school level. Our athletic department presently receives an appropriation of \$327,700 for the purpose of travel. FY 2022 Team travel expenditures were \$586,690. NMMI’s current travel budget currently is underfunded by \$284,766.

OPPORTUNITY

With the support of legislative funding, NMMI would be able to augment its travel budget and bring spending levels up to meet our current travel needs. This will enable our teams to have greater flexibility in making travel arrangements, so as to best fit the needs of our cadet student athletes. Presently our college football team lacks the flexibility to extend travel days despite having the most arduous travel schedule in the conference. Our high school basketball and baseball teams would also gain the flexibility to add pre-district tournaments to their schedule. In addition, several of our teams are consistent qualifiers to either national or state championship events, which incurs additional travel costs.

WHAT’S BEEN DONE SO FAR

In order to help mitigate the increasing costs of travel, NMMI has made changes to our transportation providers and, when possible, increased use of vehicles in our own fleet.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

NMMI requires additional funding to procure to meet the travel needs of our junior college and high school teams in order to keep pace with rising transportation costs. This will serve to meet present challenges and NJCAA conference obligations that are a result of NMMI’s geographic isolation in comparison to other junior college teams in our conference. At the high school level, it will help NMMI deal with any NMAA reclassifications which might increase travel distances or require more travel, due to an increased number of teams competing within the new class/district. Such reclassifications have resulted in changes to NMMI’s class in each of the last four two-year cycles.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE

The estimated cost of athletic travel for FY 2024 is \$850,000. An additional appropriation of \$525,000 would fully fund the NMMI Athletics travel budget for next fiscal year

EXPECTED OUTCOME

With appropriate funding levels, NMMI will have greater flexibility in scheduling travel, to best suit the educational needs of our cadet student athletes.

PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE

\$850,000 to New Mexico Military Institute’s Board of Regents for the transportation needs of the 24 athletic teams at the New Mexico Military Institute.

Thank You

