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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/05/10

SPONSOR Barela LAST UPDATED _____ HB 75

SHORT TITLE Belen Emergency Services Training SB _____

ANALYST Aubel

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY10	FY11		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Companion bill to House Bill 75

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

Department of Health (DOH)

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 75 appropriates \$50 thousand from the general fund to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration in FY11 for the training and professional development of emergency personnel, including law enforcement, firefighters, and health care professionals in Belen.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY11 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH reports that Belen is a small city that is served by a career fire department, a private career

Emergency Medical Service (EMS), and career law enforcement services. According to the agency, the closest hospital facilities are located in Albuquerque. DOH maintains “that emergency medical services, both private and public, have historically been undefended in regards to training and operational costs.”

The Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) provides the following background information:

Currently, funding for training is provided to the law enforcement, firefighters and health care professionals (EMTs) thru the city’s budget. Due to budget constraints, funding for such services are being drastically reduced. Per Fire Chief Manny Garcia, approximately 30 firefighters and EMTs are required to be licensed per state requirements. Such certifications must be maintained thru continuing education programs, which would be one of the programs funded by this bill. Police Chief Mike Chavez also stated that this funding would help offset the training costs of the state's mandated certification required for his officers that is currently difficult to meet due to budget cuts by the city.

Department of Health, Emergency Response Bureau does have a limited funding source, per the Bureau Chief, to help offset EMT training; however such funding does not cover law enforcement or firefighters training.

According to HSEMD, the department “has federal funding that will cover the costs for emergency services training. Through the HSEMD, first responders and health care professionals also have access to specialty training at federal training consortium facilities at no costs to the local jurisdiction.”

In addition, expenses associated with advanced law enforcement training and planning is a permitted use of awards made from the Law Enforcement Protection Fund, which are made annually based on requests by tribal, municipal and university police and county sheriff’s departments.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

DFA notes that additional training for emergency personnel in Belen will improve safety for its citizens.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HB 75 provides for distribution of funds that would be administered by the Local Government Division (LGD) of DFA LGD will enter into a grant agreement with Belen and ensure that all expenditures are in compliance with the state procurement code. Belen may issue a request for proposal to organizations that have an interest in administering this training.

As an alternative, DFA points out that the funding might be better appropriated to the New Mexico State Fire Marshal, Department of Public Safety, Department of Health, or the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department for administration.

RELATIONSHIP

House Bill 75 relates to the companion bill House Bill 76 that requests a \$50 thousand general fund appropriation for similar training for Valencia County.

TECHNCIAL ISSUES

DOH notes that the language in HB 75 includes law enforcement, firefighters and health care professionals as "emergency services personnel." Health care professionals are not specifically defined in the bill. Health care professionals could include Emergency Medical Technicians, Physicians, Nurses, Dentists, Counselors, etc.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Belen will not receive a \$50 thousand general fund appropriation to improve emergency capability in that area and ensure that all personnel have the required certification.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. What is the specific training that will be funded by this appropriation?
2. Will the training increase response capability that benefits both the local jurisdiction and the state?
3. Could this training be obtained through the alternative programs and funding sources available to the various emergency personnel?
4. Has Belen contacted the local emergency manager or the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department?
5. Has Belen requested funding from the Law Enforcement Fund?
6. Has Belen requested assistance for emergency training for health professionals through the Department of Health, Emergency Response Bureau?

MA/mt