

# **Allocation of Wildfire Special Session Funding**

## **Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management**

### **Program Summary**

#### **Program Overview**

The Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) was appropriated \$75,000,000 from the General Fund in FY 2021 pursuant to Section 1 of Laws 2021, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Session, Chapter 1. The FY 2023 budget appropriated another \$65,000,000 from the General Fund for the same purposes as the FY 2021 appropriation. As a condition of these appropriations, the department is required to limit their spending of these monies to 6 purposes related to ongoing efforts to mitigate wildfires. Another condition of this appropriation requires that the department submit a monthly report detailing its expenditures in each of the 6 spending categories permitted by the statute.

The 6 categories of spending to which the department is permitted to allocate funds are as follows:

- Fire suppression and pre-positioning of fire suppression equipment and staff
- Capital expenditures and equipment associated with fire suppression and pre-positioning activities for fire suppression
- Mitigation projects to address post-fire flooding and other damage that may occur as a result of fires or fire suppression activities
- A state or local government agency's emergency liabilities related to emergency sheltering, wraparound services and support activities
- Financial assistance to public and private landowners for emergency repairs for infrastructure damage resulting from fires or fire suppression activities
- Reimbursement to a state agency or political subdivision for the state agency's or political subdivision's cost-share of eligible claims arising from an emergency declared pursuant to A.R.S. § 35-192, or a federal declaration of emergency or major disaster

In addition to limiting the spending of the appropriated monies to these 6 categories of spending, 2 constraints were imposed on individual categories. The department may not spend more than \$10,000,000 for capital expenditures and \$10,000,000 for financial assistance to landowners from each of the 2 appropriations. The FY 2023 appropriation also specified that \$3,000,000 of that appropriation had to be used for purposes related to the Woodbury Fire.

#### **Expenditures**

DFFM submitted its latest report on June 27, 2024, reporting the following expenditures by category through May 2024 as shown in *Table 1* on the following page.

As a result of refunds for completed fire suppression activities, DFFM reported \$880,240 in net expenditures in May 2024. Total expenditures have reached \$43,704,676, and the remaining balance of funds from both appropriations is \$96,295,324. These expenditures do not reflect all commitments made by DFFM, which reports total encumbrances of \$95,836,879 to date, representing a \$880,240 increase from the last report. After adjusting for total encumbrances, the remaining balance of funds would be \$44,163,121.

**Table 1**

**Wildfire Spending Actuals**

	<u>Suppression</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Mitigation</u>	<u>Liabilities</u>	<u>Assistance</u>	<u>Cost Share</u>	<u>Total</u>
June 2021	4,507,336						4,507,336
July	2,239,749	897,168	234,349				3,371,266
August	4,252,915		1,047,808				5,300,723
September		1,590,000	580,591				2,170,591
October	3,812,194	511,763	1,015,011		20,995		5,359,963
November		441,238	658,863				1,100,101
December	56,954	1,198,489	1,615,183				2,870,626
January 2022			322,178				322,178
February	270,354	943,176	1,326,002				2,539,532
March	(678,511)	124,119	566,368				11,976
April	(753,182)	156,299					(596,883)
May	28,838	32,744	1,121,576		226,952		1,410,110
June	2,365,733	240,410	288,549				2,894,692
July	1,372,529	65,745	445,517		20,705		1,904,496
August	795,983	109,862	454,154		1,201,960		2,561,959
September	(107,437)	62,273	121,692				76,528
October	(716,312)	7,673	3,168,902				2,460,263
November	(301,420)	89,730	389,138		1,069,354		1,246,802
December	2,366	62,781	171,195		16,000		252,342
January 2023	(99,624)	18,882	4,813,590		41,387		4,774,235
February	(1,185,334)	51,162	1,270,207		624,775		760,810
March	(75,283)	191,638					116,355
April	858,638	21,315					879,953
May	(44,696)	40,476			188,687		184,467
June/July	(669,563)	3,025			516,323		(150,215)
August	(68,861)	1,344			345,899		278,382
September	(15,002)				248,536		233,534
October	2,607,204				330,954		2,938,158
November		19,454			812,897		832,351
December		1,015			512		1,527
January 2024							0
February		14,515			22,925		37,440
March	(6,691,903)	5,417					(6,686,486)
April	(1,370,125)	5,435			224,014		(1,140,676)
May	872,072	8,168					880,240
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,265,612</b>	<b>6,915,316</b>	<b>19,610,873</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,912,875</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43,704,676</b>

Prepared by Nate Belcher, Fiscal Analyst