

RB22B
University of Maryland, College Park
University System of Maryland

Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute – North East Regional Training Center (Harford County)

General Obligation Bonds **\$331,000** **Recommendation: Approve**

Bill Text: Provide funds to equip the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute – North East Regional Training Center located at the Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Project Description: Provide equipment for the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI) – North East Regional Training Center new training facility which is being relocated from the Aberdeen Proving Ground to the Edgewood Arsenal. The facility will provide office and classroom space and new training props to replace inadequately sized, outdated, and dilapidated facilities and meet required environmental and safety standards.

Prior Authorization and Capital Improvement Program

Authorization Uses
(\$ in Millions)

<i>Fund Uses</i>	<i>Prior Authorization</i>	<i>2011 Allowance</i>	<i>2012 Estimate</i>	<i>2013 Estimate</i>	<i>2014 Estimate</i>	<i>2015 Estimate</i>
Planning	\$0.650	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000
Construction	8.450	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Equipment	0.000	0.331	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total	\$9.100	\$0.331	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000

Authorization Sources
(\$ in Millions)

<i>Fund Sources</i>	<i>Prior Authorization</i>	<i>2011 Allowance</i>	<i>2012 Estimate</i>	<i>2013 Estimate</i>	<i>2014 Estimate</i>	<i>2015 Estimate</i>
GO Bond	\$8.350	\$0.331	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000
Nonbudgeted Funds	0.750	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total	\$9.100	\$0.331	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000

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Project Analysis

The General Assembly accelerated this project by appropriating \$650,000 in design funds in fiscal 2009 and \$7.7 million in construction funds in fiscal 2010. In 2008, the U.S. Army decided to build a testing track at the Aberdeen Proving Ground that would surround MFRI North East's training site. This would have resulted in the Army constructing and staffing a security gate around the training site in order to ensure the security of the testing track. The Army proposed, and MRFI accepted, \$750,000 to help defray some of the cost of relocating the training facility to the Edgewood Arsenal. Construction is expected to begin in May 2010 and be completed by May 2011. The fiscal 2011 allowance includes \$331,000 to fund equipment for the new facility. Despite the current positive construction bidding environment, the University System of Maryland reports that the most recent architectural/engineering construction management design estimate was over the \$8.45 million authorized for construction by approximately \$600,000. More precise information will be available when construction bid prices are received, which is expected to be March 2010. If value engineering efforts do not close the funding gap, a construction contingency fund request may be needed in order to award the construction contract.

MFRI North East provides training to rescue personnel, primarily firefighters and emergency medical technicians in Cecil, Harford, and Baltimore counties and Baltimore City. The project will construct a new 10,850 net assignable square feet (NASF)/13,915 gross square feet (GSF) facility that includes an administration and classroom building; a forcible entry and ventilation structure; a breathing apparatus and maze; a storage facility; and a structural firefighting building.

MFRI North East's current facility is outdated, lacks space and does not meet Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) regulations. The Aberdeen facility has 1,585 NASF of instructional space which can only accommodate two classes of 15 students at a time. However, of the two classrooms, one is not used because the air handling unit is broken, and the windows do not open. A reception area was converted into 1,375 NASF of office space, thereby eliminating a waiting area for students and visitors. Overall, the building has problems with air circulation, temperature control, and water damage. The new facility will increase classroom and office space from 2,960 NASF/4,076 GSF to 7,194 NASF/9,617 GSF.

Other facilities at the Aberdeen site are outdated and in poor condition. Inadequate storage facilities have led to training equipment being damaged which eventually MRFI had to discard. The building used for firefighter training only has two usable rooms out of five and cannot handle the high temperatures required to train advanced firefighting techniques. In addition, the runoff from the training fires goes into a oil/water separator that does not meet MDE regulations. MDE will not let MFRI continue using the separator if it is not replaced or updated soon. The new facility will not only provide needed space and training props but meet safety and environmental standards.

Recommended Actions

Approve.