

MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
2011 BIENNIUM BUDGET PLANNING – NEW PROPOSALS (JANUARY 2008)

UNIT/CAMPUS: FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL	UNIT PRIORITY: 1
NEW PROPOSAL NAME: COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING	
BOARD OF REGENT STRATEGIC GOAL: X ACCESS X ECON DEV X EFFICIENCY ___ RECRUIT/RETAIN	
TOTAL BIENNIAL COST: \$379,572	FUNDING SOURCES: General Fund
FY 10 TOTAL COST: \$140,247	FY 11 TOTAL COST: \$239,325
FY 10 BASE FUNDING REQUESTED: \$140,247	FY 11 BASE FUNDING REQUESTED: \$239,325
FY 10 OTO FUNDING REQUESTED: \$0	FY 11 OTO FUNDING REQUESTED: \$0
ADDITIONAL STAFF IN FY10 (FTE):1.25	ADDITIONAL STAFF IN FY11 (FTE):1.25

DESCRIPTION OF NEW PROPOSAL:

We propose to improve the quality and quantity of training opportunities offered Montana's emergency responders. FSTS currently provides effective training for 62% of community fire and rescue services. If this proposal is adopted we will go from 62% of community fire services effectively served, to 80% effectively served with in 4 years.

HOW SUCCESS IS MEASURED:

The proficiency of service provided by local fire organizations has a direct relationship on the cost of fire insurance. Investments in training community fire/rescue services will result in savings to rate-payers many times the initial cost of training. As the competencies and sustainability of public fire entities is increased, the financial commitment from state government for project fires will be reduced. Costs are minimized and life safety is maximized as fires are dealt with in their early stages by local firefighters and community resources.

Volunteers in Montana comprise 96% of community fire/rescue services. Their level of competence directly correlates life safety and the survivability of communities and their inhabitants. Quality training/education is the most significant element in developing the competence of community emergency services. The MSU Fire Services Training School is the primary source of all levels/aspects of fire/rescue training at the state level. The number of jobs saved as a result of an increased competency of Montana's local fire services being able to prevent substantial business losses to fire will be significant over the next decade.

MSU-FSTS trainees/students are typically volunteers and not compensated for their contribution to life safety, property conservation and protection of the environment in rural communities.