

Resolution expressing the need for full funding of the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA)

Resolution offered by the National Volunteer Fire Council

Whereas, each year, there are over 3,500 civilian fire deaths and approximately 100 firefighters die in the line of duty;

Whereas, USFA works closely with the fire service community to provide public education, training, technology and data initiatives;

Whereas, the American public has greatly benefited from the training and education programs provided by USFA and its National Fire Academy (NFA) and countless lives have been saved and property losses prevented as a direct result of this training and education;

Whereas as the NFA promotes the professional development of the fire and the emergency response community, supplements State and local fire service training programs and delivers a wide array of training;

Whereas, over 1.4 million first responders have received training through a variety of course delivery methods from the NFA since 1975;

Whereas, at the same time there has been an enormous increase in overall homeland security spending, the U.S. Fire Administration continues to struggle financially to carry out its core mission;

Whereas, the lack of full funding for the agency impedes the activities of the Fire Data Center, various prevention and fire service outreach initiatives, NFA course development and revision and more;

Whereas, on December 6, 2003, President Bush signed the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act (Public Law 108-169), which authorizes funding levels for USFA activities through FY 2008;

Whereas, the long-term fiscal health of USFA and NFA are critical to the fire service and the protection of the homeland and we have repeatedly seen USFA budget funds diverted to other uses by its parent agencies;

Now, let it therefore be resolved that the Congressional Fire Services Institute and the Members of the National Advisory Committee each year support funding for the United States Fire Administration at the full amount authorized in the reauthorization bill passed by Congress and signed by the President. Further, be it resolved that CSFI work to ensure that USFA funding be made a line item in the Homeland Security budget to assure that funds appropriated by Congress are not diverted for other uses.