

amount in a county's public laws, this section provides a county with supplemental authority. See Article 25, § 9 of the Code. Consistent with the intent to provide a uniform threshold amount, the exemption concerning Calvert County is repealed.

(w) [(1)] To contribute funds to volunteer fire departments in the county.

[(2)] (W-1) (1) The County Commissioners of Dorchester County shall pay [in each of the years 1979, 1980, and 1981] EACH YEAR at least the [sums] SUM of [\$81,500, \$100,000, and] \$118,500 [, respectively] to the several volunteer fire companies in the county, so long as they remain active bodies and fire-fighting organizations, for their benefit. The money shall be used by the respective fire companies for the support, maintenance, equipment, and operation of the several fire companies for the purpose of suppressing fires in the county.

[(3)] (2) The payment shall be made on the first day of October [in each of the years] EACH YEAR by the County Commissioners [of Dorchester County], and it shall be distributed to the several fire companies of Dorchester County in at least the following amounts:

	[1979	1980	1981]
Cambridge	[\$ 7,500	\$ 9,000]	\$10,500
Hurlock	[6,500	8,000]	9,500
Secretary	[6,000	7,500]	9,000
Vienna	[6,000	7,500]	9,000
East New Market *	[6,000	7,000]	8,000
Eldorado	[5,500	6,500]	7,500
Neck	[5,500	6,500]	7,500
Lloyds	[5,500	6,500]	7,500
Lakes & Straits	[5,500	7,000]	8,500
Church Creek	[5,500	7,000]	8,500
Madison	[5,500	7,000]	8,500
Hoopers Island	[5,500	7,000]	8,500
Linkwood-Salem	[5,500	6,500]	7,500
Taylor's Island	[5,500	7,000]	8,500

(3) THE ELLIOTTS VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY SHALL RECEIVE AN AMOUNT SET BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

(4) Each company shall comply with the bylaws of the Volunteer Fire Companies Association of Dorchester County, and a payment may not be made to a company unless it is complying with these bylaws.

(5) The County Commissioners [of Dorchester County] shall levy [for each of the years 1979, 1980, and 1981] EACH YEAR on the assessable property of Dorchester County the amounts to be paid to the several volunteer fire companies as determined by the County Commissioners in accordance with this subsection. Before the County Commissioners are required to pay these moneys to the respective fire companies, the Commissioners may require the officers of the fire companies to appear before them and show to the satisfaction of the Commissioners that any sums of money paid by the Commissioners to the fire companies under this subsection in prior years have been