

(1) be used to refinance a debt or other obligation of a volunteer company incurred before July 1, 1982; or

(2) be spent to replace or repair eligible items to the extent that insurance proceeds are available for those purposes.

[(i) (F) The Board of Public Works may not approve a grant or loan from the [Account] FUND to a volunteer company if the volunteer company has not made a good faith effort to obtain money from its local government.

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(a) (1) A volunteer company shall submit each request for money from the [Emergency Assistance Trust Account] FUND to the Association for approval by a board of review in accordance with the Association's bylaws.

(2) Each request for money shall include:

(i) financial statements for the 2 fiscal years immediately preceding the fiscal year in which the request is made; [and]

(ii) any available audit of the financial statements; AND

(III) A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF THE REASONS FOR THE REQUEST.

(3) For each request for money from the [Emergency Assistance Trust Account] FUND, the volunteer company shall certify that the volunteer company applied for money from its local government and was denied, either wholly or partly.

(b) (1) If the Association disapproves a request or does not take action within 45 days after the request, the volunteer company requesting money may appeal to a panel composed of the president of the Association, the State Fire Marshal, and the chairman of the Fire and Rescue Education and Training Commission.

(2) The decision of the panel is final and is not subject to further review.

(c) On approval of a request for money, the Association or the panel shall transmit its recommendation to the Department with the request for money and any other supporting information required by the Department.

(d) (1) The Department shall forward each request for money from the [Emergency Assistance Trust Account] FUND to the Department of Legislative Services for review.

(2) On review of the financial statements, the Department of Legislative Services may advise the Department if the request for money appears justified.

(e) The Board of Public Works may authorize the use of money from the [Emergency Assistance Trust Account] FUND on a recommendation by the Department in accordance with this section.