



# The Maine Fire Protection Services Commission

## Live Fire & Fire Training Facility (LFTF)

### 2025 Grant Program FAQ's

#### What is the goal of Maine's Live Fire Training Facility Program?

Firefighters in the State of Maine are required by the Maine Bureau of Labor Standards to train, maintain, and be proficient in tasks before performing those tasks on the fire ground. Since 2021, and with continued funding of [Public Law 444, Title 20-A MRSA §9004](#), three live fire training facilities have been built to current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. Repairs for several other LFTF's have also been awarded. It is the goal of the LFTF Program to have facilities that meet and maintain NFPA standards within a hours travel time for at least 90% of Maine's firefighters.

#### What are the primary requirements for funding?

Funding for new or replacement construction is limited to two pre-approved design LFTF styles: a fixed facility or Conex Box design. Applicants must agree to one of these designs. The designs can be expanded upon at the applicants cost, but they can not be less than the pre-determined performance specifications.

Applications must also ensure that siting details, such as land, equipment, desired architectural fees, site improvements, and geotechnical (soil, rock, and groundwater) are fully addressed as these costs are not allowed as part of LFTF project funding.

Funding for repairs to existing LFTF's is available with the goals of ensuring firefighter/instructor safety and continued NFPA compliance. Existing sites that are affiliated with Maine Fire Services Institute (MFSI) testing programs are highly encouraged to apply. Other facilities must have, or be able to readily obtain, NFPA structural engineering certification, and be willing to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to host MFSI testing certification programs.

#### How is LFTF funding administered?

Due to efficient progress with Public Law 444, funding will continue to be administered by the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission. Similar to most grant programs, the **LFTF funds are administered as reimbursement grants**. A region awarded grant funding must be able to complete construction before the funds are reimbursed. Please ensure this process is fully documented in your application for funding.



## **Why is LFTF funding limited to two pre-determined designs?**

Consistent design and operation for Maine's LFTFs not only allows for substantial cost efficiencies in construction, it allows fire training instruction to be more predictable and efficient. Instructors and program managers can better plan and manage all types of training when facilities are consistent in design; particularly for live fire training, which is some of the most challenging to teach, especially with new recruits.

Furthermore, consistent design will also ensure resources are leveraged to maximize return on State taxpayer investments, such as when contracting cost-efficient pricing for NFPA Engineering studies that are required every five years.

## **What characteristics signal a viable application?**

Successful applicants from the 2021-2023 LFTF grant program documented strong support in the following areas:

- \* application was complete, with proper signatures and documentation.
- \* a proven track record with signed letters of regional cooperation and leadership,
- \* training records for much of the region that demonstrated increased need,
- \* letters of agreement from local towns and businesses for in-kind contributions,
- \* an established funding mechanism was in place that could accept financial donations towards the establishment and continued maintenance of a LFTF for the region. (matching funds)
- \* full compliance from all regional fire departments in reporting to the Maine Fire Incident Reporting System (MEFIRS)

## **How can a region apply for LFTF funding?**

Announcements, applications, and other information concerning Maine's LFTF Grant Program will broadcast via Maine's fire service groups and will also be posted on the Maine Fire Services Protection Commission homepage at:

<https://www.maine.gov/dps/fmo/about/commission/training-facility-projects>

*For additional information on the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission (MFPSC), our Live Fire and Fire Training Facilities Initiative, and related Maine fire training reports and studies, please visit our webpage at:*

***Training Facility Projects in  
Maine***

*or contact MFPSC Chair Chief  
Dan Brooks at 207-462-2631*

