



**Report to the Governor,
Co-Chairs of the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Improvement
Programs,
Members of the 144th General Assembly,
Director of the Office of Management and Budget and
Controller General**

from the

Delaware Council on Volunteer Fire Service

pursuant to

29 Del. C. § 2720



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RICHARD S. CORDREY
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

October 15, 2008

The Honorable Ruth Ann Minner
Carvel State Office Building
820 N. French Street
Wilmington, DE 19801

Dear Governor Minner:

Once again, I am pleased to provide to you the annual report required by 29 Del C. § 2720, which established the Delaware Council on Volunteer Fire Service and the Revolving Loan Fund. The report describes the Council's activities during the past year and provides a summary of the fund's status.

Over \$173,000 was available for lending this year based on the timely repayment of loans. Two new loans, over \$86,000 each, bring the revolving loan fund to nine loans. This year's loans were used by the Christiana and Hockessin fire companies to help finance two new pumper trucks.

This low cost funding source reduces the operating costs of the volunteer companies that have been fortunate enough to participate. It is the hope of the Council that additional appropriations can be committed to the revolving loan fund so that other volunteer companies can minimize the costs of financing large equipment purchases. With continued growth through new loans and the hope of supplemental funding from the General Assembly, the revolving loan fund can expand low cost lending to a greater number of Delaware volunteer fire and emergency service companies.

This has been my final year as Chairman of the Council. It has been an honor to serve such a worthy cause and I wish only for its continued success.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Cordrey, Chairman
Council of Delaware Volunteer Fire Service

attachment

cc: Rep. Vincent A. Lofink, Chair
Sen. Robert L. Venables, Vice-Chair

CARVEL STATE BUILDING
820 N. FRENCH ST., 8TH FLR.
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19801
TELEPHONE: (302) 577 - 8979
FAX: (302) 577 - 8982

HASLET ARMORY
122 WILLIAM PENN STREET
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901
TELEPHONE: (302) 744 - 1100
FAX: (302) 739 - 1139

Table of Contents

I.	Executive Summary	1
II.	Activity Report	2
III.	Payment Schedule	4
Exhibit 1	House Bill 190, as amended, 141 st General Assembly	
Exhibit 2	Delaware Volunteer Fire Service Revolving Loan Fund Program Guidelines and Application	
Exhibit 3	Delaware Council on Volunteer Fire Service Goals and Objectives	

I. Executive Summary

The Delaware Council on Volunteer Fire Service met on March 6, July 8 and August 27, 2008 with the following membership:

- Mr. Ron Marvel, President of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association;
- Mr. Kenneth H. McMahon, State Fire Prevention Commission;
- Mr. Ray Stevens, member appointed by the President of the Sussex County Firemen's Association;
- Mr. Michael D. Layton, member appointed by the President of the Kent County Firemen's Association;
- Mr. Rick Clark, Sr., member appointed by the President of the New Castle County Firemen's Association;
- State Treasurer Jack Markell; and,
- Secretary of Finance Richard S. Cordrey, Chairman

At its March meeting, the Council established May 16, 2008 as the 2008 application deadline; application packages were mailed to each volunteer company by March 30th. A single application was returned to the Council, but it was determined that two applicants from the prior year had continued interest in the Delaware Volunteer Fire Service Revolving Loan Fund. The fund had seven loans outstanding and loan repayments created an available cash balance of \$48,253.47.

The Council met again on July 8, 2008. With the loan repayments of June 1st, the fund had an available cash balance of \$173,851.12. The Council considered three applications requesting total funding of \$784,671. The Council voted to divide the proceeds evenly between all three applicants.

The Council met again on August 27, 2008 to reallocate funds that had been previously committed to an applicant. Again, the Council voted to divide the proceeds evenly between applicants.

All monies available to the fund in 2008 went to loans to help purchase pumper trucks for the Christiana and Hockessin Fire Companies.

As of October 15, 2008, the Delaware Volunteer Fire Service Revolving Loan Fund has nine active loans. Payments expected to be received before the next application cycle will total \$163,147.26.

The Council will meet again in February 2009 to determine the 2009 revolving loan calendar.

**Delaware Volunteer Fire Revolving Loan Fund
Activity Report
September 22, 2008**

	<u>Available Funding</u>
Initial appropriation	
Fiscal year 2006 - HB 315 Grant-in-Aid bill	\$ 1,000,000.00
Loan Awards:	
Bowers Fire Company	\$ 40,000.00
Five Points Fire Company	145,000.00
Harrington Fire Company, Inc.	90,000.00
Odessa Fire Company	225,000.00
Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Co., Inc.	275,000.00
Townsend Fire Company, Inc.	225,000.00
Total Loans Awarded from initial appropriation	<u>\$ (1,000,000.00)</u>
	<u>\$0.00</u>
Loan Payments Received - June 1, 2007	
Bowers Fire Company	\$ 4,319.92
Five Points Fire Company	16,816.89
Harrington Fire Company, Inc.	9,719.82
Odessa Fire Company	26,095.17
Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Co., Inc.	31,534.15
Townsend Fire Company, Inc.	25,992.74
Total Loan Payments Received - June 1, 2007	<u>\$ 114,478.69</u>
Available Balance June 1, 2007	<u>\$ 114,478.69</u>
New Loan Applications Received May 15, 2007	
American Legion Post #8 Ambulance Service	\$ 90,000.00
Christiana Fire Company, Inc.	262,500.00
Hockessin Fire Company	259,671.00
Total New Loan Applications	<u>\$ 612,171.00</u>
Loans Awarded 2007	
American Legion Post #8 Ambulance Service	\$ 90,000.00
Total Loans Awarded 2007	<u>\$ (90,000.00)</u>
Available Balance September 1, 2007	<u>\$ 24,478.69</u>
Loan Payments Received - December 1, 2007	
Bowers Fire Company	\$ 4,319.92
Harrington Fire Company, Inc.	9,719.82
Georgetown Ambulance	9,735.04
Total Loan Payments Received - December 1, 2007	<u>\$ 23,774.78</u>
Available Balance December 1, 2007	<u>\$ 48,253.47</u>
Loan Payments Received - June 1, 2008	
Bowers Fire Company	\$ 5,000.00
Five Points Fire Company	16,816.89
Harrington Fire Company, Inc.	9,719.82
Odessa Fire Company	26,095.16
Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Co., Inc.	32,238.00
Townsend Fire Company, Inc.	25,992.74
Georgetown Ambulance	9,735.04
Total Loan Payments Received - June 1, 2008	<u>\$ 125,597.65</u>
Available Balance June 1, 2008	<u>\$ 173,851.12</u>

**Delaware Volunteer Fire Revolving Loan Fund
Activity Report
September 22, 2008**

		<u>Available Funding</u>
Active Loan Applications May 16, 2008		
Christiana Fire Company, Inc.	262,500.00	
Hockessin Fire Company	259,671.00	
Greenwood Fire Company	<u>262,500.00</u>	
Total New Loan Applications	\$ 784,671.00	
Loans Awarded 2008		
Hockessin Fire Company (8/1/08)	\$ 86,925.56	
Christiana Fire Company	<u>86,925.56</u>	
Total Loans Awarded 2008		<u>\$ (173,851.12)</u>
Available Balance		<u><u>\$0.00</u></u>

**Delaware Volunteer Fire Revolving Loan Fund
Payment Schedule**

	December 1 2008	June 1 2009	Annual Total
1 Bowers Fire Company	\$ 4,319.92	\$ 4,319.92	
2 Christiana Fire Company		5,091.73	
3 Five Points Fire Company		16,819.89	
4 Georgetown American Legion	9,735.04	9,735.04	
5 Harrington Fire Company	9,719.82	9,719.82	
6 Hockessin Fire Company	5,032.01	5,032.01	
7 Odessa Fire Company		26,095.17	
8 Rehoboth Beach Fire Company		31,534.15	
9 Townsend Fire Company		25,992.74	
Sub-Total	<u>\$ 28,806.79</u>	<u>\$ 134,340.47</u>	
Total Payments Expected			<u><u>\$ 163,147.26</u></u>

Exhibit 1 House Bill 190, as amended, 141st General Assembly

SPONSOR: Rep. Price &

Rep. B. Ennis & Rep. Lee & Rep. Viola &
Sen. Cook; Reprs. Buckworth, Carey,
Quillen, Thornburg, Valihura, Van Sant,
West, Williams, Sens. Adams, Amick,
Blevins, Bonini, Bunting, Cloutier, Connor,
DeLuca, Henry, Marshall, McBride,
McDowell, Simpson, Sokola, Sorenson, Still,
Vaughn, Venables, Winslow

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

141st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE BILL NO. 190

AS AMENDED BY

HOUSE AMENDMENT NOS. 1 & 3

AND

SENATE AMENDMENT NO. 1

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE VOLUNTEER
FIRE SERVICE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

Section 1. Amend Chapter 27, Title 29 of the Delaware Code, by adding a new §2719 to read as follows:

"§2719. Delaware Council on Volunteer Fire Service.

- a. There is hereby created a Delaware Council on Volunteer Fire Service, hereinafter referred to as the Council, to advise the Secretary of Finance on all matters relating to the administration, implementation and financing of the Volunteer Fire Service Revolving Loan Fund Program. The Council shall review and recommend to the Secretary of Finance for adoption, after a public hearing, criteria for administering and awarding loans from the Volunteer Fire Service Revolving Loan Fund, including but not limited to criteria for assessing recipient need.
- b. The Council shall consist of:
 1. The President of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association or designee;
 2. The Chairman of the State Fire Prevention Commission or designee;
 3. Three members; one each appointed by the Presidents of the New Castle, Kent, and Sussex County Firemen's Associations no later than September 1 for the initial appointment and January 15 of each calendar year thereafter.
 - (a) Initial appointments shall be for staggered terms. The member from Sussex County's initial term shall be for three years, the member from Kent County's initial term shall be

for two years, and the member from New Castle County's initial term shall be for one year.

(b) Upon expiration of the preceding terms, subsequent appointments shall be for a three-year term.

(c) At the end of a member's term, such member shall continue to serve until the member's successor is duly appointed;

(4) The State Treasurer or designee;

(5) The Secretary of Finance or designee

(c) The Secretary of Finance shall serve as the chair of the Council.

- d. Members of the Council shall receive no compensation. The Council shall hold at least one regular meeting each calendar year and shall keep a record of its proceedings. All proceedings of the Council shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 100 of Title 29.
- e. For purposes of conducting business of the Council, four voting members shall constitute a quorum. A majority vote of Council members shall be required on any action or matter before the Council.
- f. The Council shall adopt procedural rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this chapter."

Section 2. Amend Title 29 of the Delaware Code, by adding to a new §2720 to read as follows:

"§2720. Delaware Volunteer Fire Service Revolving Loan Fund.

- 1. A special fund appropriation account is hereby created in the Department of Finance, to be known as the Delaware Volunteer Fire Service Revolving Loan Fund, hereinafter referred to as the Fund. Sums appropriated by the General Assembly to the Fund shall be used to create a loan program to be administered according to guidelines and procedures developed by the Delaware Council on Volunteer Fire Service to upgrade equipment and improve facilities that are essential to providing adequate fire, rescue, emergency medical and technical emergency response related service to Delaware communities. Loan funds shall not be made available for equipment that has already been ordered or the expansion of facilities or parking that has already begun, except where such expansion is deemed necessary to provide adequate fire, rescue, and emergency medical and technical emergency response services to the surrounding community by the Delaware Council on Volunteer Fire Service. The Fund shall serve as a revolving loan account and shall be eligible to receive loan repayments. The Fund shall be deemed a special fund and shall be approved by the Governor for the following purposes:
 - a. To accept and retain the funds and revenues appropriated by the General Assembly;
 - b. To make loans to eligible volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical service companies meeting the criteria established herein;
 - c. To buy or refinance debt obligations of eligible volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical service companies;
 - d. To facilitate the pledging by an eligible fire, rescue and emergency medical service company of its State grant-in-aid and health insurance rebate funds as collateral for securing a loan from the Fund;
 - e. To earn interest on amounts on deposit in such Fund;
 - f. To establish all necessary interest bearing accounts for deposit of loan repayments; and

Exhibit 2 Program Guidelines and Application

Delaware Volunteer Fire Service Revolving Loan Fund Calendar

February 2008							March 2008							April 2008							May 2008						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2						1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
24	25	26	27	28	29		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
							30	31																			
June 2008							July 2008							August 2008							September 2008						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
									1	2	3	4	5						1	2							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
29	30												31														

March 6, 2008

Organization Meeting

March 17, 2008 -
March 31, 2008

Provide applications by mail and make available on website

May 16, 2008

Application Deadline

Applicant must supply **1 original and 7 copies** of the application package to:

Stephanie Scola, Director, Bond Finance
State of Delaware
820 N. French Street, 8th floor
Wilmington, Delaware 19801

June 2, 2008

Evaluation and Review period ends

September 9 – 13, 2008
September 12, 2008

Annual Conference
Conference Luncheon

October 15, 2008

Annual Report to the Governor and co-Chairs of the Bond Bill Committee

Delaware Volunteer Fire Service Revolving Loan Fund

Program Guidelines

The Delaware Volunteer Fire Service Revolving Loan Fund was established to upgrade equipment and improve facilities that are essential to providing adequate fire, rescue, emergency medical and technical emergency response related service to Delaware communities. Loan funds are limited and are not available for equipment that has already been delivered or for the expansion of facilities including parking that has already been completed. For consideration, equipment and expansions must be deemed necessary to provide adequate fire, rescue and emergency medical and technical emergency response services to the surrounding community by the Delaware Council on Volunteer Fire Service.

The Delaware Council on Volunteer Fire Service (the “Council”) is comprised of the President of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen’s Association, the Chairman of the State Fire Prevention Commission, three members, one each appointed by the Presidents of the New Castle, Kent and Sussex County Firemen’s Associations, the State Treasurer and the Secretary of Finance.

The Council will approve loan applications based on the availability of funds and criteria that assess the relative needs for fire service and loan assistance throughout the State. The criteria include financial need, age and condition of existing equipment and the demographic, geographic and financial conditions of the communities served. The loan fund should not be considered an organization’s sole source of funding.

1. Who May Apply?

1.1. All volunteer fire, rescue and emergency medical service companies located in the State of Delaware.

2. Guidelines for Apparatus and Equipment Loans

2.1 The purchase of new and used apparatus will be considered, provided new and used apparatus pass all Federal, State, and/or county certifications. For all apparatus and equipment requests, applicant should include product specifications.

2.2 Loan funds are available to upgrade equipment and improve facilities that are essential to providing adequate fire, rescue, emergency medical and technical emergency response related service to Delaware communities and shall not be made available for equipment that has already been ordered.

2.3 Interest on all loans will be at the fixed rate of 3%. Repayment schedules will have semi-annual or annual payments. Annual payments will be due June 1st; semi-annual payments will be due June 1st and December 1st.

2.4 Suggested maximum loan amounts and terms:

	Maximum Loan	Maximum Term
Apparatus (New) Rescue, Pumpers	\$262,500 or 50% (whichever is less)	10 years
Heavy Rescue	\$450,000 or 50% (whichever is less)	10 years
Aerial Tower trucks or Quints	\$600,000 or 50% (whichever is less)	10 years
Light Duty Rescue Brush Trucks	\$90,000 or 50% (whichever is less)	5 years
Apparatus (Used)	\$60,000 or 50% (whichever is less)	5 years
Ambulances	\$90,000 or 75% (whichever is less)	5 years
Water Craft Rescue	\$45,000 or 50% (whichever is less)	5 years
Rehabilitation	\$35,000 or 50% (whichever is less)	5 years
Equipment	\$50,000 (once per 5-year period)	5 years

3. Guidelines for Facility Loans

3.1 Applications will be considered for establishing or renovating facilities that house fire fighting and rescue equipment, and emergency medical and technical emergency response services.

3.2 Proceeds of the loan shall be used only for construction and shall not be used for land acquisition, payment of fees for design, planning and preparation of application or any other cost not directly attributable to construction.

3.3 The applicant shall present an estimated construction cost for the project from a reliable engineering or architectural firm. A new or renovated facility must meet all requirements and codes of the Federal, State and local jurisdiction, included local firemen's association standards.

3.4 Interest on all loans will be at the fixed rate of 3%. Repayment schedules will have semi-annual or annual payments. Annual payments will be due June 1st; semi-annual payments will be due June 1st and December 1st.

3.5 Suggested maximum loan amount and terms

Facility	\$200,000 or 50% (whichever is less)	10 years
-----------------	---	----------

4. Guidelines for Loan application process

4.1 All applications must be prepared in accordance with Delaware Council on Volunteer Fire Service guidelines. Failure to comply with Council guidelines may be cause for rejection of the application. The Council may reserve the right to correct minor errors or irregularities in the application.

4.2 An original application must be provided to the Council. Financial statements and proposed operating and capital budgets must be completed and provided, along with the completed application, for the two fiscal years immediately prior to the fiscal year in which the application is made.

4.3 Each applicant must submit IRS Form 990 for each year presented on the financial statements.

4.4 Applicant must submit to Council, an inventory of each applicant's equipment and fleet of vehicles.

4.5 Applicant must supply **one original and 7 copies** of the application package to:

Stephanie Scola, Director, Bond Finance
State of Delaware
820 N. French Street, 8th floor
Wilmington, Delaware 19801

An application package consists of the original application and inventory list, financial statements and budgets, IRS Form 990, Company's Resolution and List of Officers and estimate and plans, if any.

4.6 In addition to financial statements submitted with the application, applicants must agree to supply annual financial statements as may be required.

4.7 A representative from the company will be required to be available and prepared to answer questions about the apparatus or facility to be financed as well as financial operations related to the applicant's company. Additionally, a company officer must be available to sign a promissory note at the time the loan is received by the company.

4.8 Applications are valid until December 31st of the year the application was submitted unless otherwise determined by the Council.

4.9 Within 12 months of the time the loan was granted, the volunteer company must submit documentation to the Council reflecting the actual expenditures of the loan proceeds.

5. Prioritization of Loan requests

5.1 It is the intent of the Council to manage the fund in a prudent and fiscally responsible manner and to extend loans to companies that can demonstrate the ability to repay the loan in accordance with its terms. Within that context, the priority for receiving loans will be established based on the criteria set forth below and the availability of funds.

5.1.1 New vehicles and apparatus will have the highest priority followed by new equipment, renovations or rehabilitations of apparatus or equipment and facility improvements.

5.1.2 Further, priority consideration will be given to those companies demonstrating the greatest need considering financial need, age and condition of existing equipment and apparatus and demographic, geographic and financial conditions of the communities served.

5.1.3 The Council would also consider refinancing to prevent an event of default.

6. Loan Review and Approval Process

6.1 Applications must be submitted by the close of business on May 16, 2008 for funding consideration in the current year.

6.2 The Council shall review each loan request received from an applicant in accordance with the stated criteria.

6.3 Applicants will be notified of loan approvals by the Council. In addition, companies will be notified of any further requirements for loan closing.

7. Event of Default on Loans

7.1 The Council will follow prudent underwriting standards when considering a loan. In lieu of property and equipment liens, the Council may withhold future state funding including payments from insurance premium taxes and grant-in-aid funding.

7.2 Any volunteer fire, rescue and emergency medical service company awarded a loan through the Delaware Volunteer Fire Service Revolving Loan Fund should consider the purchase of a performance bond to protect against financial loss should an equipment or construction contractor default, or fail to deliver equipment, according to the terms of the contract.

7.3 Should a company be unable to make its loan payments in a timely manner, the company officers are required to notify the Council as soon as possible.

Exhibit 3 Goals and Objectives

President

Kennard L. Pyle
P.O. Box 281
Odessa, DE 19730
302-378-9622 H
302-247-1307 P

First Vice President

Alan F. Robinson Jr.
101 W. South St.
Smyrna, DE 19977
302-653-9195 H
302-697-8100 W

Second Vice President

Ron Marvel
143 Pine Cove Dr.
Seaford, DE 19973
302-629-8715 H
302-629-8595 W

Executive Secretary

James L. Cabbage, Jr.
P O Box 361
Clayton, DE 19938
302-653-9726 H
302-247-3832 P

Treasurer

J. Allen Metheny, Sr.
2484 Arthursville Rd.
Hartly, DE 19953-9611
302-492-3755 H
302-735-3461 W

Past President, Director

Raymond T. Stevens
306 Baker Rd
Selbyville, DE 19975
302-436-8374 H

Elected Directors

Hal Barber (2006)
Sussex County
302-539-9755 H
302-228-8641 P

Warren F. Jones (2007)

New Castle County
302-998-5861 H
302-996-3516 W

Kevin Wilson (2008)

Kent County
302-653-4588 H
302-270-6630 C

Official Address

Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association
P O Box 1849
122- A South Bradford St.
Dover, DE 19903-1849

**Phone Numbers**

302-734-9390 (Office)
302-734-9404 (Fax)
877-455-3832 (Toll Free)
Website: www.dvfassn.com

County Presidents

Thomas D'Alessandro
New Castle
302- 832-1159 H
302-636-5069 W

Ed Welch
Kent County
302-398-4796 H
302-474-0989 P

Walt Reynolds
Sussex County
302-645-7151 H
302-745-1465 W

DVFA Chaplin
Pastor Bob Hudson
P.O. Box 1237
Millsboro, DE 19966
302-934-9874 H

DELAWARE VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM

There is hereby established by the 141st General Assembly that pursuant to House Bill No. 190, as amended by House Amendment Nos. 1 and 3 and Senate Amendment No. 1, that there be established a Delaware Council on Volunteer Fire Service (the "Council") and a Delaware Volunteer Fire Service Revolving Loan Fund (the "Fund"). The above legislation also establishes the criteria to administer the Fund and to report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Improvement Programs. Pursuant to the above legislation, both the Council, through 29 Del. C. § 2720, and the Fund, through 29 Del. C. § 2721, became effective upon the Governor's signature on August 22, 2002.

It should also be noted that for the four years following, the Fund went unfunded. In fiscal year 2006, the Delaware General Assembly committed ONE MILLION DOLLARS to initiate the Fund.

THE COUNCIL HAS ESTABLISHED THE FOLLOWING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES TO ADMINISTER THE FUND IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE.

PROGRAM GOALS

As defined in 29 Del. C. § 2720, the Council is comprised of the following:

1. The President of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association or designee;
2. The Chairman of the State Fire Prevention Commission or designee;
3. Three members; one each appointed by the Presidents of the New Castle, Kent and Sussex County Firemen's Associations for staggered terms;
4. The State Treasurer or designee; and,
5. Serving as chair of the Council, the Secretary of Finance or designee.

The goal of the Council is to adopt any/all procedure rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of 29 Del. C. §§ 2720, 2721.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The various objectives are defined as follows:

Application Process

1. To develop a competitive process by which loan applications for improving fire, rescue, emergency medical and technical emergency response services can be submitted statewide.

Evaluation Process

2. To develop criteria to assess the relative needs for fire service and loan assistance throughout the state by considering:
 - a. the financial assets of those making application as well as their ability to obtain revenue, income and financial support and loans from outside sources;
 - b. the age and existing condition of the applicant's apparatus, equipment or facilities and to determine whether such apparatus, equipment or facilities comply with the National Fire Protection Association standards.
 - c. the demographic, geographic and financial conditions of the community served by those making application.

Funding Process

3. To establish procedures and guidelines that would allow the Council:
 - a. to accept and retain the funds and revenues appropriated by the General Assembly;
 - b. to make loans to eligible volunteer fire, rescue and emergency medical service companies meeting the application criteria process;
 - c. to buy and/or refinance debt obligations of eligible applicants;

- d. to facilitate the pledging of eligible applicant's state grant-in-aid and health insurance rebate funds as collateral for securing a loan;
- e. to earn interest on amounts on deposit in the Fund;
- f. to establish all necessary interest bearing accounts for deposit of loan repayments, and
- g. to finance the reasonable costs incurred by the State in the administration of the Fund.

Reporting Process

- 4. The Council shall:
 - a. submit a strategic plan, (goals and procedures) to the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Improvement Programs for accomplishing the Fund, and
 - b. submit an annual report to the Governor and the co-chairs of the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Improvement Programs by October 15 of each year.