



**Northwest Fire District  
Governing Board**  
13535 North Marana Main Street  
Marana, Arizona

**SCHEDULED**

**MEMORANDUM NO. {{item.tracking\_number}}**

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|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Date:</b>                 | March 25, 2025  |
| <b>To:</b>                   | Governing Board   |
| <b>From:</b>                 | Sandy Russell, Analyst  |
| <b>Division:</b>             | Business Services   |
| <b>Type of Action:</b>       | Formal Action/Motion  |
| <b>Strategic Plan Goals:</b> | Demonstrate responsible and transparent stewardship of organizational resources   |
| <b>Agenda Item:</b>          | Adoption of Resolution No. 2025-008 Approving the Submittal of a Grant Application to the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Allocated to the Arizona Conservation Grant Fund to Purchase a Pump-Pod Direct Recirculating Apparatus Firefighting Training Sustainability (DRAFTS) Unit in the Amount of \$120,602.26 |

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution No. 2025-008 approving the submittal of a grant application for a Pump-Pod Direct Recirculating Apparatus Firefighting Training Sustainability (DRAFTS) unit.

**MOTION:**

Move to adopt Resolution No. 2025-008 approving the submittal of a grant application to the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding allocated to the Arizona Conservation Grant Fund to purchase a Pump-Pod Direct Recirculating Apparatus Firefighting Training Sustainability (DRAFTS) unit in the amount of \$120,602.26.

**DISCUSSION:**

The decision to apply for this grant application was identified in a timeframe which did not allow for prior Board approval as the application deadline was March 7, 2025. As required in the District's Grant Policy, should application time constraints limit prior Board approval, temporary approval to submit the application can be obtained from the appropriate Assistant Chief, with formal Board approval required at the next scheduled Board meeting.

Funding from the Arizona Conservation Grant Fund is competitively allocated to water conservation projects within the state. Northwest Fire District is requesting funding to acquire a second Pump-Pod Direct Recirculation Apparatus Firefighter Training & Sustainability (DRAFTS) unit to use at the District's 11 stations for company training. Northwest Fire District obtained a Pump Pod DRAFTS unit last year with Water Conservation Grant funds

provided through the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona. The District did not recognize the full potential of training opportunities provided by the Pump Pod unit until the Training staff began utilizing it during formal training sessions. The District is requesting an additional unit to enable company training at each of its 11 stations. Pump Pods are mobile and the District originally intended to move the Pump Pod to each station for company training. The Training staff quickly realized how valuable the Pump Pod was in formal training applications and removing the unit for the time needed to train three (3) shifts at each of the 11 stations would be detrimental to the formal training schedule. Additionally, firefighters must remain in an area of response or have coverage. While District firefighters are off sight and training at the Training Center, the District incurs overtime costs to ensure adequate coverage.

The addition of a second Pump Pod DRAFTS unit would allow one unit to remain at the Training Center during scheduled formal training events while still allowing for company level training to occur at each station with the second. When not in use for formal training, the original DRAFTS unit would also be placed in rotation for company training, further enabling the District to conserve water provided by the City of Tucson, the Town of Oro Valley, the Town of Marana Water, the Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District, and the Flowing Wells Irrigation District. The DRAFTS units have an anticipated life span of 30 years. Training staff estimates potential water flow of 1,500,000 gallons per year during company training. This volume is anticipated to increase as the population continues to grow and the District increases the number of suppression staff and fire stations. Over the 30-year period at current water usage levels, the implementation of the second DRAFTS unit for company training could conserve a minimum of 45 million gallons of water, while reducing chlorine treated dry weather water runoff and erosion.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

Conduct fire attack training scenarios without implementing water recycling strategies.

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#### **Fiscal Impact**

**FISCAL YEAR:** 24/25

**BUDGETED Y/N:** No

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$120,602.26

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This grantor requires a 25% funding match. If awarded, Northwest Fire District would be obligated to contribute \$30,150.56 towards the purchase of the DRAFTS unit. Funding for this match obligation is available in Grant Fund balance.

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#### **Attachments**

Resolution No. 2025-008

Water Conservation Grant Fund Application - 2025

Pump-Pod Quote & Information.pdf

Letters of Support  
Fund Balance