

FIRE PROTECTION LICENSING BOARD

Enabling Laws

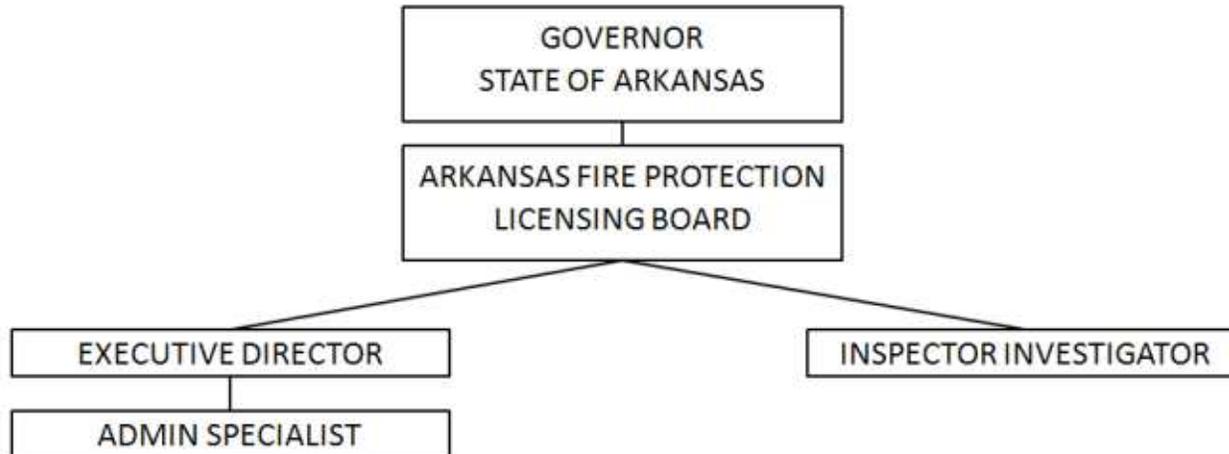
Act 108 of 2012
A.C.A. §20-22-601 et seq.

History and Organization

The Arkansas Fire Protection Licensing Board was created in 1977. In 1984, the automatic fire sprinkler contracting industry sought licensing legislation and in 1985, Act 702 brought the sprinkler industry under this Board.

The Board is comprised of eleven (11) Board members, appointed by the Governor. The Board employs at the present an Executive Director, Investigator, and Administrative Specialist.

The purpose and intent of the Board is to provide monitoring of the servicing of portable fire extinguishers, installation and/or servicing of fixed fire suppression systems and the installation and/or servicing of the sprinkler fire systems. Additionally, the Board provides for the registration and licensing of firms and individuals providing such services in order to protect and promote public safety by minimizing injury and property damage, which might result from improperly installed and improperly maintained fire protection systems.



Agency Commentary

The Fire Protection Licensing Board works with licensed firms/contractors and individuals to assist in understanding the state, local and national fire codes. By aiding in the education of installers and servicing firms, as well as the general public, our agency provides quality fire protection for businesses and residents of the State of Arkansas.

The Fire Protection Licensing Board assists in the protection and promotion of public safety by minimizing personal injury and property damage resulting from improperly installed or maintained fire protection systems. The installation, servicing and maintaining of portable, fixed fire suppression and fire protection sprinkler systems is derived from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) publications and standards and it is the intent of this Board and industry to provide information to the general public regarding the requirements of the fire protection systems and licensed firms and individuals for use in their fire protection needs.

The Board participates in industry trade shows in an effort to provide additional information to the general public regarding fire safety and services for business and personal use. Several types of equipment will become obsolete on January 1, 2015. Insuring that the industry and general public are aware of this equipment which should be replaced is a priority for the Board.

The Investigator responds to complaints received regarding company, individual or systems and equipment for compliance with Act 743 of 1977 and the Rules and Regulations of the State of Arkansas. In addition, the Investigator makes random inspections at public facilities across the State to make sure that services are performed according to the fire standards. This has been extremely beneficial in identifying areas that are not being serviced properly which could adversely affect the well being of the general public. These random inspections insure that and that fire protection firms and contractors working in the State of Arkansas are licensed with the Arkansas Fire Protection Licensing Board as well as the employees of respective firms installing, servicing or performing maintenance on various fire protection systems.

We currently have a full time investigator that specializes in the portable and fixed suppression systems. When the board was formed and the current investigator was hired the majority of firms and individuals licensed through the Board were portable and fixed suppression companies. The current ratio of sprinkler licensed companies and individuals to portable and fixed suppression companies and individuals is approximately 50/50. The Board believes it is more effective and critical to have an "On Call" consultant to work on the sprinkler investigations. This person would need to be someone that is heavily experienced or licensed in Engineering. The Board will respond to the complaints by means of Regulatory Hearings.

The Board has a new licensure category for the Sprinkler Industry which is a Fitter. This category basically covers the installer of sprinkler systems. The revenues generated from this licensure category will easily cover the costs of having a consultant on call to cover the more in-depth investigations in the Sprinkler Industry.

The increase in the budget request for non-personnel items is based upon the cost increase for expanding our office facilities to meet the monthly testing needs; installation of video monitoring equipment for testing areas; increase in the price of postage and various products and office supplies to allow the Board to conduct business.

Audit Findings

DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
 AUDIT OF :
 ARKANSAS FIRE PROTECTION LICENSING BOARD
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2011

Findings	Recommendations
None	None

State Contracts Over \$25,000 Awarded To Minority Owned Businesses Fiscal Year 2012

None

Employment Summary

	Male	Female	Total	%
White Employees	1	2	3	100 %
Black Employees	0	0	0	0 %
Other Racial Minorities	0	0	0	0 %
Total Minorities			0	0 %
Total Employees			3	100 %

Publications

A.C.A. 25-1-204

Name	Statutory Authorization	Required for		# of Copies	Reason(s) for Continued Publication and Distribution
		Governor	General Assembly		
Fire Protection Licensing Board	§20-22-607	N	N	0	For fire safety promotion and public awareness of fire protection laws/regulations. Available to all licensed firms, the general public and other interested parties. Available on the Board's website.
Roster of Licensed Firms & Individuals	§20-22-607	N	N	0	For fire safety promotion and public awareness of fire protection laws/regulations. Available to all licensed firms, the general public and other interested parties. Available on the Board's website.
Rules/Regulations - Portable/Fixed Fire Systems	§20-22-607	N	N	0	For fire safety promotion and public awareness of fire protection laws/regulations. Available to all licensed firms, the general public and other interested parties. Available on the Board's website.
Rules/Regulations-Sprinklers	§20-22-607	N	N	0	For fire safety promotion and public awareness of fire protection laws/regulations. Available to all licensed firms, the general public and other interested parties. Available on the Board's website.

Agency Position Usage Report

FY2010 - 2011						FY2011 - 2012						FY2012 - 2013					
Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted Total	% of Authorized Unused	Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted Total	% of Authorized Unused	Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted Total	% of Authorized Unused
	Filled	Unfilled	Total				Filled	Unfilled	Total				Filled	Unfilled	Total		
2	3	0	3	-1	-50.00 %	3	3	0	3	0	0.00 %	3	3	0	3	0	0.00 %

Budgeted Total exceeds the Authorized number due to a Central Growth Pool position.

Analysis of Budget Request

Appropriation: 920 - Fire Protection Operations

Funding Sources: MFP - Fire Protection Licensing Board

Created by Act 743 of 1977, the Arkansas Fire Protection Licensing Board strives to help protect the public through the certification and licensing of individuals and companies that install and service fire extinguishers and sprinkler systems.

The Board is funded from examination and renewal fees charged pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated §20-22-610.

Base Level Regular Salaries and Personal Services Matching includes Career Service payments for eligible employees. Personal Services Matching also includes a \$20 increase in the monthly contribution for State employee's health insurance for a total State match per budgeted employee of \$410 per month. Base Level salaries and matching do not include appropriation for a Cost of Living Adjustment or Merit Pay increases. The Base Level request for Regular Salaries includes board member stipend payments.

The Board requests a Change Level increase of \$29,424 and \$36,602 for FY14 and FY15 for the following:

- increase of \$1,421 in Regular Salaries and Personal Services Matching for two (2) additional board meetings or hearings per year;
- increase in Operating Expenses of \$28,003 for FY14 and \$35,181 for FY15. An increase of \$19,120 for FY14 and \$24,620 for FY15 is requested for Enforcement Investigation expense, Mileage, and Board Member Travel related expenses. These increases are needed due to the increased number of licensed companies and individuals; and the Board directive to increase the number of random inspections across the state. Due to several board members' terms expiring, these positions may be appointed to individuals who must travel further to meetings and hearings;
- increase of \$8,883 for FY14 and \$10,561 for FY15 is requested for increases postage, network services, printing, office equipment rental, membership dues, janitorial service, miscellaneous technical services, office supplies and other expenses and services. Increases for printing, office supplies and other expenses and services is to replenish board literature, individual license blanks, letterhead, and other office materials. The postage increase is to notify the public to remove certain equipment from service.

The Executive Recommendation provides for the Agency Request. Expenditure of appropriation is contingent upon available funding.

Appropriation Summary

Appropriation: 920 - Fire Protection Operations
Funding Sources: MFP - Fire Protection Licensing Board

Historical Data

Agency Request and Executive Recommendation

Commitment Item	Historical Data			2013-2014			2014-2015		
	2011-2012 Actual	2012-2013 Budget	2012-2013 Authorized	Base Level	Agency	Executive	Base Level	Agency	Executive
Regular Salaries 5010000	86,828	90,420	96,331	90,420	91,740	91,740	90,420	91,740	91,740
#Positions	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Personal Services Matching 5010003	30,084	33,021	32,515	33,791	33,892	33,892	33,791	33,892	33,892
Operating Expenses 5020002	47,710	50,093	50,093	50,093	78,096	78,096	50,093	85,274	85,274
Conference & Travel Expenses 5050009	3,198	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300
Professional Fees 5060010	974	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Data Processing 5090012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay 5120011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	168,794	177,834	183,239	178,604	208,028	208,028	178,604	215,206	215,206
Funding Sources									
Fund Balance 4000005	216,998	193,752		165,918	165,918	165,918	167,314	137,890	137,890
Cash Fund 4000045	145,548	150,000		180,000	180,000	180,000	190,000	190,000	190,000
Total Funding	362,546	343,752		345,918	345,918	345,918	357,314	327,890	327,890
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)	(193,752)	(165,918)		(167,314)	(137,890)	(137,890)	(178,710)	(112,684)	(112,684)
Grand Total	168,794	177,834		178,604	208,028	208,028	178,604	215,206	215,206

The FY13 Budget amount in Personal Services Matching exceeds the authorized amount due to matching rate adjustments during the 2011-2013 biennium.

Change Level by Appropriation

Appropriation: 920 - Fire Protection Operations
Funding Sources: MFP - Fire Protection Licensing Board

Agency Request

Change Level		2013-2014	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL	2014-2015	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL
BL	Base Level	178,604	3	178,604	100.0	178,604	3	178,604	100.0
C01	Existing Program	29,424	0	208,028	116.5	36,602	0	215,206	120.5

Executive Recommendation

Change Level		2013-2014	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL	2014-2015	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL
BL	Base Level	178,604	3	178,604	100.0	178,604	3	178,604	100.0
C01	Existing Program	29,424	0	208,028	116.5	36,602	0	215,206	120.5

Justification

C01	The Board requests change levels of \$29,424 in FY14 and \$36,602 in FY15. The FY14 and FY15 increase includes \$1,421 in Regular Salaries and Personal Services Matching for two (2) additional board meetings or hearings per year. The FY14 and FY15 increase in Operating Expenses of \$28,003 and \$35,181; respectively, is for increases in Enforcement/Investigation expense, Mileage, Miscellaneous Technical Services, Janitorial Service, Board Member Travel and Meals, Network Services, Printing, Postage, Membership Dues, Office Equipment Rental, Other Expenses, and Office Supplies. The increases requested for Enforcement/Investigator expenses and mileage is due to the increased number of licensed companies and individuals; and the Board directive for the investigator to increase the number of random inspections across the state. The Board Member travel and related expenses are due to several board positions currently held by local individuals which will be up for reappointment; the positions may be reappointed to individuals who must travel further to meetings and hearings. The increase for Printing, Office Supplies, and Other expenses is to replenish board literature, individual license blanks, letterhead, and other office materials. The increase in Postage is for increased mailing expense to notify the public of the requirement, according to national guidelines, to remove certain equipment from service.
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