DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL'S OFFICE
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DEPARTMENT AGENDA REQUEST FORM – OPEN SESSION

AGENDA TITLE (to be completed by Council's Office)			
Grant Submission Request – Cancer Screening Program – Dorchester County Volunteer Firefighters Association (DCVFA) – Finance			
OVERVIEW			
Requestor	Marilyn Williams	**Submission Date**	October 27, 2026
Department	Finance	**Meeting Date**	November 2, 2026
Title	Cancer Screening for Firefighters Grant	**Deadline**	November 13, 2026
Team Member(s)	Marilyn Williams, Adam Tolley, Dorchester County Firefighters Association		
Reviewed By	☐ Board/Committee ☐ Planning & Zoning ☐ Legal Counsel ☐ Council's Office ☐ Public Safety ☐ Recreation & Parks ■ Finance ☐ Public Works ☐ _____		

REQUEST		
☐ Advertise for Proposals	☐ Contract/Agreement	☐ Piggyback
☐ Bid Award/Sole Source	☐ Discussion/Fact Finding	☐ Presentation (5-10 minute limit)
☐ Bill/Resolution	■ Grant Application/Award	☐ Proceed
☐ Budget Transfer	☐ Letter of Support	☐ _____

Subject	Grant Application - Cancer Screening for Firefighters
Summary	The Maryland Department of Health is once again offering a competitive grant program to municipalities and to independent fire department for funding of cancer screening testing for active and retired firefighters within the State. This request is for approval to apply for this year's grant cycle to provide test kits for up to 100 Dorchester County active or retired firefighters. The grant request is for $59,500.

Supporting Document(s) Attached	**Signature Req.**	**Confidential**
•	☐ Yes / ■ No	☐ Yes / ■ No
•	☐ Yes / ■ No	☐ Yes / ■ No
•	☐ Yes / ■ No	☐ Yes / ■ No
•	☐ Yes / ■ No	☐ Yes / ■ No
•	☐ Yes / ■ No	☐ Yes / ■ No
•	☐ Yes / ■ No	☐ Yes / ■ No
•	☐ Yes / ■ No	☐ Yes / ■ No
•	☐ Yes / ■ No	☐ Yes / ■ No

FUNDING (write N/A in TOTAL if not applicable)

	Amount	**Funding Source**	**Type**
Local	$0		☐ Expense / ☐ Revenue
State	$59,500	MD Dept. of Health Cancer Screening Grant	☐ Expense / ☐ Revenue
Federal	$0		☐ Expense / ☐ Revenue
TOTAL	$59,500		

ADVERTISEMENT REQUIREMENTS (provide advertisement in a Word doc.)

Publication Outlet(s)	n/a
Publication Date(s)	n/a

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Last year, the County received a grant from the Maryland Department of Health in the amount of $26,368 to provide cancer screening kits to 70 firefighters. Fifty-five firefighters participated and a very high rate (38%) of elevated biomarkers were identified. Counseling for the next appropriate steps were provided to the participating firefighters by a national medical firm working with the test company.

This grant cycle, we are recommending that a local medical group participate in the grant activities to provide professional service for the blood draws and for the medical counseling. At the recommendation of the Health Officer, we have partnered with Sailwinds Medical Group who provide primary and specialty care in their two offices located in Cambridge and Salisbury. Sailwinds will provide professional blood draws at three events for the convenience of active and retired firefighters. Events will be scheduled for May, 2027.

Firefighters with two high risk factors - time of service and age of firefighter - will be prioritized, but the program will be open to any active or retired firefighter up to 100 participants. We chose 100 participants for the grant based on last year's participation and the amount of funding available.

We are proposing that we use the same test company - OneTest - based on the scientific data associated with the test and the positive results and interactions with the company last year. We did obtain one other quote, but it was twice the cost of the OneTest kit.

We believe that Dorchester County's application should be prioritized based on the results of last year's test results. A OneTest representative said that normal rates for positive biomarkers are typically 10% to 15%. Dorchester County ranks 4th in the State for cancer rates, according to the National Cancer Institute, and firefighters are at a higher risk due to exposure to toxic chemicals.

This grant will provide a much-needed service and it will also bring the County into compliance with the new State law which requires counties to provide this service to firefighters.

KEY OBJECTIVE(S)/GOAL(S)

Provide free cancer screening to firefighters who, through their service to the community, are at a higher risk for developing cancer, and to provide free medical counseling to ensure that those with elevated biomarkers are provided with the tools necessary to assist with improved health.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve the submission of a grant application in the amount of $59,500 with a budget as follows:

$25,000 Professional blood draws and medical counseling ($250 x 100 participants)
$34,500 Test kits ($345 each x 100)

NEXT STEPS, IF APPROVED

Application is due November 13th.