

March 10, 2016

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
REPORT NO. 4

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.  
CHAIR MILLS PRESENT AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

1. INTRO. 5-4 (2016)  
**RATH, MILLS, LORIGO, DIXON, HARDWICK & MORTON AS AMENDED**  
WHEREAS, the volunteer fire service in New York provides fire and emergency response to 79% of the State’s population (outside the City of New York), including our residents here in Erie County; and

WHEREAS, these dedicated men and women put in countless hours of training and response time, which results in a \$3.87 billion annual savings to taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the numbers of volunteer firefighters has declined over the years from approximately 120,000 volunteers throughout the State in the 1990’s, to less than 84,000 in 2010, with the average volunteer age steadily increasing; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Firemen’s Association of the State of New York (FASNY) received a \$4.2 million Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant from the Federal Department of Homeland Security, with the goal of the grant focused on recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters throughout New York; and

WHEREAS, by integrating a statewide mass media campaign, local “train the recruiter” seminars and an innovative community college tuition reimbursement program, FASNY was able to enlist 20,000 new volunteers over the four year grant period; and

WHEREAS, while this success helped stem the hemorrhaging of volunteers, it still leaves the volunteer force far below what is necessary to maintain public safety at the highest level; and

WHEREAS, prior to the grant period ending, FASNY applied for a second SAFER grant (FY2014), but despite meeting, and significantly exceeding, all performance goals of the original grant, their request was denied; and

WHEREAS, as a result, FASNY has had to curtail their statewide recruitment and retention efforts and will have to suspend the community college tuition reimbursement program in the near future, which is designed to encourage youth to join the ranks of volunteer firefighters by their pursuit of a community college degree in exchange for volunteer service, and where they covered this year’s tuition out of their own budget; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that volunteer firefighters account for such a significant portion of emergency services calls that property taxes would have to be raised 26.5%, with projections in Erie County being 34.4%, to account for their efforts if they were replaced by career firefighters; and

WHEREAS, FASNY is currently developing an application for the FY2015 SAFER grant, which would enable them to continue their recruitment and retention efforts so that the manpower level of New York’s volunteer fire service is adequate to meet the demands placed upon it; and

WHEREAS, without the FY2015 SAFER grant, there would likely be a return to the past decades of decline in the volunteer firefighter ranks, a loss of funding and enrollment at community colleges across the State of New York, and a drop in the quality of response on the part of Emergency Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body hereby supports the awarding of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant to the Fireman’s Association of the State of New York (FASNY); and be it further

RESOLVED, that this honorable body hereby supports the refunding of money paid by FASNY for the 2015-2016 community college tuition reimbursement program in addition to receiving the FY2015 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Brian E. Kamoie, Assistant Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Grant Programs; County Executive Mark Poloncarz; the Erie County Department of Emergency Services; the Firemen’s Association of the State of New York; U.S. Senator for New York Chuck Schumer; U.S. Senator for New York Kirsten Gillibrand; U.S. Congressman for New York Chris Collins; U.S. Congressman for New York Brian Higgins; and all parties deemed necessary and proper.  
(6-0)

2. COMM. 5E-25 (2016)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

WHEREAS, the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services has agreed to provide funding in the amount of \$209,112 in federal assistance to continue the implementation of a program to enhance the ability of Erie County to manage emergency and disaster situations; and

WHEREAS, authorization is required from the Erie County Legislature for the County Executive to enter into contact and accept this funding in order to purchase the necessary equipment to enhance the ability of Erie County to manage emergency and disaster situations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby authorize the County Executive to enter into contract with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to receive \$209,112 in federal grant funding for the Erie County Department of Emergency Services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this grant, under the Department of Emergency Services, will meet the goals and objectives and these funds will be utilized to enhance the ability of Erie County to manage emergency and disaster situations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the authorization is hereby provided to the Division of Budget and Management to establish funding in the Grant Fund 281, as follows:

Erie County Department of Emergency Services  
FY15 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP)  
Operations Grant

Revenue	Increase
Account 414000 Federal Aid	\$209,112.00
Appropriations	Increase
Account 516030 Maintenance Contracts	<u>\$209,112.00</u>
Total	\$209,112.00

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to establish and adjust budgets as required to comply with State approved funding levels; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the County Executive's Office, the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Personnel, the Department of Emergency Services c/o Melissa Calhoun, the County Comptroller, and the County Attorney.  
(6-0)

3. COMM. 5E-26 (2016)

**SHERIFF**

WHEREAS, the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services has awarded \$100,000 to the Erie County Sheriff's Office in funding for an Incident Response Vehicle; and

WHEREAS, authorization is required from the Erie County Legislature for the County Executive to enter into contract and accept \$100,000 in funds for an Incident Response Vehicle; and

WHEREAS, there will be no impact on County tax dollars.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby authorize the County Executive to enter into contract with the New York State Division of Homeland Security to receive \$100,000 in grant funding for the Erie County Sheriff's Office; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to the Division of Budget and Management to establish funding in the Grant Fund 281, as follows:

Erie County Sheriff's Office  
Tactical Team Targeted Grant  
December 7, 2015 to August 31, 2018

<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Account 414000 - Federal Revenue	<u>\$ 100,000</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$ 100,000</u>

<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Account 561440- Motor Vehicle	<u>\$ 100,000</u>
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	<u>\$ 100,000</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to establish and adjust budgets as required to comply with State and Federal approved funding levels; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies be forwarded to the County Executive's Office, the County Attorney, the Division of Budget and Management, the Office of the Comptroller, and the Office of the Sheriff.  
(6-0)

**EDWARD A. RATH, III**  
**CHAIR**