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Governor | Wes Moore Lt. Governor | Aruna Miller Secretary | Russell J. Strickland

# FY23 Amoss Fund Annual Report

Maryland Department of Emergency Management

Required by Public Safety Article § 8-105(b) (MSAR #13055)

April 5, 2025

## Purpose of Engagement

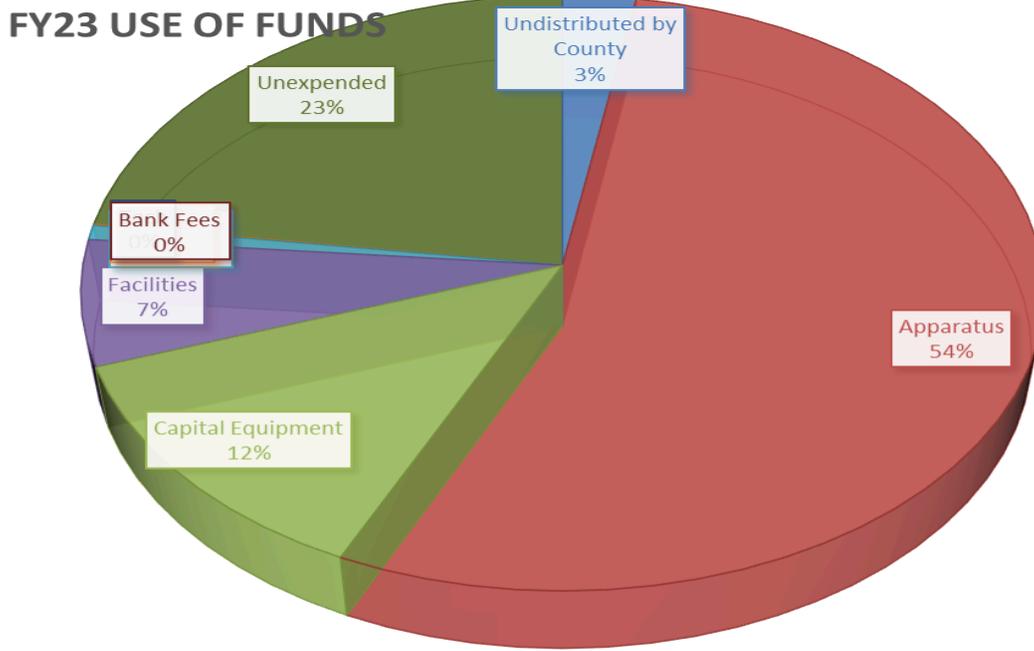
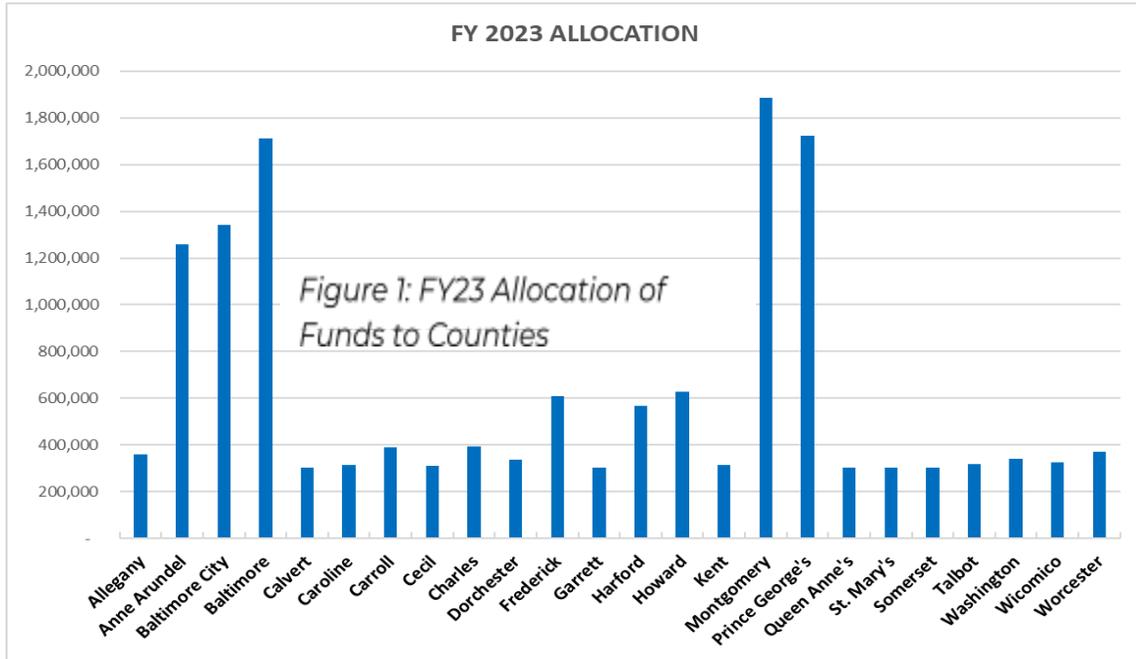
The Department of Emergency Management has performed an attestation engagement based upon “agreed upon procedures” in accordance with the requirements specified in Title 8 of the Public Safety Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. This statute defines the purpose, administration and monitoring requirements of the Senator William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Award (Amoss Fund). Our engagement was for the period beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023, referred to as “FY23” throughout this report.

Section 8-105 (b) requires the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) “to report to the Governor and General Assembly on the information provided by the counties on the distribution of money provided under this subtitle, including an assessment of the extent to which the purposes of this subtitle are being achieved.” The results of this engagement are found in the section below titled “Findings and Recommendations.”

## Background Information

The Amoss Fund was established to promote: (1) the delivery of effective and high-quality fire protection, rescue, and ambulance services to the citizens of this State; (2) increased financial support for volunteer fire, rescue, and ambulance companies (VFRACs) by local governments; and (3) the continued financial viability of VFRACs given the greatly increased costs of apparatus and other types of equipment.

In FY23, the Amoss fund provided grants-in-aid of \$15,000,000 for fire protection, rescue, and ambulance services to all counties. For purposes of this engagement, the term “county” includes Baltimore City. The allocation to each county was determined by the number of property tax accounts within their boundaries. Additional funds were provided to counties with municipalities that had “fire protection” expenditures above a statutory threshold. Figure 1 (p. 3) below reports the Amoss funds allocated to each county in FY23. Figure 2 (p. 3) shows the use of funds in FY23.



*Figure 2: FY23 Use of Funds*

## Findings and Recommendations

### Procedure #1

*Determine the accuracy of the amount of Fire Protection Expenditures (FPE) reported by each county per §8-105 (a).*

#### Findings and Recommendations:

The Director of Finance of each county certified the amount of FPE incurred in FY23. We compared each county's FPE with supporting documentation such as general ledger reports, line items from annual financial reports as well as actual costs reported in their annual budgets. The results of our procedures support the reliability of the amounts reported.

### Procedure #2

*Determine whether counties have met the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) standard per §8-104 (a).*

#### Findings and Recommendations:

The chart below (p. 5) reports the Fire Protection Expenditures (FPE) for each county. Section 8-104 requires the use of a 3-year moving average to ascertain achievement of the MOE standard. Effective July 1, 2014 (FY15), the Maryland General Assembly statutory changed certain provisions regarding MOE. Specifically, capital expenditures were excluded from the calculation of FPE, and counties may receive a "waiver" of the MOE requirement. In addition, the state is required to assess a penalty if a county does not meet MOE for the two subsequent fiscal years that follow the 3-year period used to determine the average.

To comply with the new statute and to ensure an accurate comparison, FY15 was established as the base year for all future 3-year MOE cycles. FY23 Fire Protection Expenditures were compared to the average expenditures incurred in FY20, FY21, and FY22. Using this analysis, Calvert County did not meet the MOE standard in FY22 or in FY23. Accordingly, MDEM reduced Calvert's FY25 allocation by 35.39% or \$106,170.

FY 2023 Net Expenditure vs. 3-Year Avg Expenditure (Sec. 8-104 (a) (1) (ii))						
Jurisdiction	3-Year Avg (FY20,21,22)	FY 2023 Actual	Meet FY2023 Standard?	%	Meet FY2022 Standard?	Statutory Penalty?
Allegany	2,201,798.88	2,930,749	Yes		Yes	
Anne Arundel	17,256,578.00	19,629,710	Yes		Yes	
City of Baltimore	30,549,416.67	43,798,608	Yes		Yes	
Baltimore County	13,835,825.63	15,779,643	Yes		Yes	
Calvert	4,420,640.68	2,856,025	No	64.61%	No	YES
Caroline	1,926,446.43	2,400,592	Yes		Yes	
Carroll	13,425,455.37	12,355,841	No	92.03%	Yes	NO
Cecil	3,594,294.76	4,111,879	Yes		Yes	
Charles	13,241,326.94	14,142,415	Yes		Yes	
Dorchester	1,639,910.53	2,633,107	Yes		Yes	
Frederick	9,872,512.00	11,902,092	Yes		Yes	
Garrett	2,044,659.67	2,779,718	Yes		No	
Harford	13,042,065.33	16,186,478	Yes		Yes	
Howard	22,562,128.67	24,697,745	Yes		Yes	
Kent	969,844.43	1,488,378	Yes		Yes	
Montgomery	13,215,922.77	16,643,057	Yes		Yes	
Prince George's	25,020,163.42	44,592,353	Yes		Yes	
Queen Anne's	2,724,151.96	3,032,344	Yes		Yes	
St. Mary's	8,263,995.00	15,304,808	Yes		No	
Somerset	861,457.15	874,189	Yes		No	
Talbot	2,640,820.71	3,221,281	Yes		Yes	
Washington	9,592,903.00	13,154,449	Yes		Yes	
Wicomico	8,789,871.33	8,403,376	No	95.60%	Yes	NO
Worcester	10,315,595.20	12,180,084	Yes		Yes	
<b>Total</b>		<b>295,098,922.10</b>				

**Procedure #3**

*Determine whether counties have provided adequate matching funds per §8-104 (b).*

Findings and Recommendations:

In FY23, 100% of counties made FPE from their own sources that were greater than or equal to the amount of Amoss money received.

#### **Procedure #4**

*Determine whether counties expended or encumbered the Amoss funds within the period proscribed in §8-104 (e).*

#### Findings and Recommendations:

Section 8-104 (e) requires counties to return unexpended/unencumbered Amoss funds after two fiscal years. Based on the reporting, funds distributed to counties in FY23 and those in prior years were expended or encumbered within the parameters of the statute.

#### **Procedure #5**

*Determine whether counties participated in the Maryland Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) requirements per §8-103 (c). The Office of the State Fire Marshall administers this web-based system.*

#### Findings and Recommendations:

As of the date of this report, all counties were compliant in MFIRS reporting for the year ended June 30, 2023.

#### **Procedure #6**

*Determine whether counties participated in the Ambulance Information System (AIS) reporting requirements per §8-103 (c). The Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) administers this program.*

#### Findings and Recommendations:

As of the date of this report, all counties were compliant with AIS reporting requirements for the year ending June 30, 2023.

#### **Procedure #7**

*Determine whether counties reported the nature and amount of any in-kind contributions provided to VFRACs per §8-105 (a).*

Findings and Recommendations:

All the counties reported the nature and amount of any in-kind contributions to VFRACs.

**Procedure #8**

*Determine whether each jurisdiction distributed the minimum amount of funds defined by formula per §8-103 (b).*

Findings and Recommendations:

Based on their reporting, all counties distributed the minimum amount of funds defined by statutory formula.

**Procedure #9**

*Determine whether recipients expended Amoss funds for uses authorized by §8-102 (f).*

Findings and Recommendations:

All the VFRACS selected for testing expended their FY23 Amoss funds for uses authorized by §8-102 (f). In addition, we tested the uses of Amoss funds transferred by Baltimore County and Prince George's County to their Career Fire Departments. Both Career Fire Departments expended their FY23 Amoss funds for uses authorized by §8-102 (f).

**Procedure #10**

*Determine whether Amoss money distributed to VFRACs were maintained in a separate account per §8-104 (d).*

Findings and Recommendations:

All the VFRACS selected for testing held their Amoss funds, in separate accounts per §8-104 (d).

### Engagement Scope, Objectives and Methodology

Procedures #1 through #8 were performed by testing financial data provided by 100% of counties. Procedures #9 and #10 were performed by testing financial source documentation obtained from a representative sample. Financial source documentation included but was not limited to bank statements, cancelled checks, deposit slips and paid invoices. Each year, eight (33%) of the twenty-four Maryland counties are selected. The testing of all counties is completed at the end of each three-year cycle outlined by the schedule (right). The shaded column represents testing of expenditures incurred in the year ended June 30, 2023, and is the third year of the three-year cycle that began in FY21. Upon the conclusion of each year's examination, a review is made of the findings, and a report is prepared for the Governor and the General Assembly.

State Fiscal Year of Expenditure	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Allegany		X	
Anne Arundel	X		
City of Baltimore		X	
Baltimore County		X	
Calvert	X		
Caroline	X		
Carroll	X		
Cecil	X		
Charles			X
Dorchester			X
Frederick			X
Garrett	X		
Harford		X	
Howard			X
Kent		X	
Montgomery	X		
Prince George's		X	
Queen Anne's		X	
St. Mary's	X		
Somerset			X
Talbot		X	
Washington			X
Wicomico			X
Worcester			X
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

### Engagement Scope, Objectives and Methodology (Continued)

The counties listed below comprise the sample tested for Procedures #9 and #10 in FY 2023. These counties represent approximately 43.71% of the total fund Appropriation. The sample also represents approximately 33.33% of the total number of VFRACs in the State.

	FY 2023 Allocation	% of Total Appropriation \$15,000,000.00	# of VFRACS	% of Total VFRACS 366
Allegany	\$349,950	2.33%	25	6.83%
City of Baltimore	\$1,692,787	11.29%	0	0.00%
Baltimore County	\$1,329,247	8.86%	24	6.56%
Harford	\$561,407	3.74%	16	4.37%
Kent	\$311,040	2.07%	8	2.19%
Prince George's	\$1,695,515	11.30%	31	8.47%
Queen Anne's	\$300,000	2.00%	9	2.46%
Talbot	\$316,140	2.11%	9	2.46%
	<b>\$6,556,086</b>	<b>43.71%</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>33.33%</b>