From: Dustin Miller
To: General IDL
Subject: IDL FY23 Budget update
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Team IDL,

Just wanted to share some great news! Our budget, HB755, was approved by the Senate this morning on a near-unanimous vote. This approval means that we are just one signature away from securing funding for the next fiscal year to continue modernizing the IDL fire management program, which includes: adding 10 new .83 FTE engine bosses to our agency, launching an electronic fire business system, standing up a new North Idaho booster crew, hiring two new fire management officers, and permanently funding our efforts to increase starting pay for seasonal firefighters to $15 per hour. Additionally, the budget helps us align Forest Legacy staffing with the demands of the program, and includes equipment for programs in the Trust Lands and Forestry and Fire Divisions. However, funding for the St. Joe Facility rebuild is being handled in a separate bill through DPW, which has not passed yet.

Additionally, HB588, our wildland firefighter hazard pay bill, will soon be considered by the full Senate. Given the overwhelming backing of our budget, and the supportive remarks made by Sen. Crabtree, Sen. Vick, Sen. Stennett, Sen. Blair, and Sen. Souza during debate, I am very optimistic that HB588 will be approved as well. We will keep everyone updated.

Next, our budget bill will be routed to Governor Little for signature. For IDL, the passage of our budget request is a historic moment. We set a goal to begin modernizing our fire program. We worked hard to ensure stakeholders understood our needs and heard our story. At every level across IDL, our team demonstrated competence and determination, earning the respect of Idaho's policy makers. The approval of our FY23 budget request demonstrates that thoughtful planning, diligence and hard work pays off!

Thank you for all you do! This would not have been possible without you.

Sincerely,

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