

Michigan Municipal League
State & Federal Affairs Division

Budget Fax Alert

**Revenue Sharing Payments Remain Frozen; Public
Safety Funding in Jeopardy!**

September 16, 2005

**To: Mayor/President, Council, Manager and Legislative
Director:**

As the Legislature completes work on the budget over the next week here's an update on matters of importance to locals.

Revenue Sharing – Funding for revenue sharing payments will remain frozen at current year levels. However, through MML efforts, \$1 million has been added to insure that, despite fluctuations in sales tax revenues, all units will receive the same total amount in payments as last year. Action needed: *Contact your state representative and Senator and ask them to support the conference committee recommendation to not cut revenue sharing.*

Public Safety Programs – Funding for programs such as fire fighter training, law enforcement training (MCOLES), fire investigation and the increase for fire protection grants is in serious jeopardy, the result of a general fund shortage and commitments to fund other programs.

Two budgets are affected, the budget for the Department of Labor and Economic Growth which contains the fire fighter training and fire protection grant programs and the Department of State Police which houses the fire investigation unit and law enforcement training through MCOLES.

Action Needed: *Time is of the essence as final decisions will be made by the budget conference committees on Tuesday.* Please contact the following committee members listed below as well as your own state senator and representative and ask them to support funding for these important public safety programs.

Talking Points:

- The legislature needs to make a commitment to invest in important public safety programs that help to train first responders.
- Funding for public safety programs is of vital importance given the events of the last few weeks and the continued threat of terrorist actions.
- It's not enough to provide first responders with the best equipment possible – they also need the best training available.

- The promise needs to be kept that communities with state property in their borders be properly compensated through fire protection grants as required by state law.

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