

ORDINANCE NO.

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 19- 2025

INTRODUCED BY

MARCH 5, 2025

AN ORDINANCE

Amending the 2025 Fire Department budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000.00) from the Norfolk Southern Rail, Safety-First grant. These funds will be used to purchase hazardous materials-related equipment for incidents that may occur as a result of a railway incident along the Norfolk Southern railway that runs through the City of Allentown.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN:

SECTION ONE: That City Council authorizes an increase to the unappropriated balance of the 2025 General Fund in the amount of Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000.00).

Other Grants and Misc.		
000-5240		\$ 18,000.00

SECTION TWO: That City Council authorizes a supplemental appropriation from the unappropriated balance of the General Fund to the Fire Department budget as follows:

Fire		
Fire Administration & Operations		
000-05-0803-0002-72	Equipment	\$ 18,000.00

SECTION THREE: That this Ordinance takes effect ten (10) days after final passage.

SECTION FOUR: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

Legislative Template

- What department or bureau is this bill originating from?

The bill originated from the Allentown Fire Department. The Allentown Fire Department has been awarded \$18,000.00 from Norfolk Southern Rail through their Safety-First Grant. This grant is to purchase hazardous materials related equipment to support the Fire Department's response to hazardous materials related incidents that may occur as a result of a railway incident along the Norfolk Southern railway that runs through the City of Allentown.

- Summary and facts of the bill.

This funding will be used to purchase and enhance firefighting foam and equipment related to supporting firefighting foam. The foam being purchased will be free of PFAS (Per – and polyfluoroalkyl substances). PFAS substances are harmful to firefighters and the environment and have been known to cause occupational cancers in firefighters. Furthermore, PFAS foam is harmful to the environment and may contaminate soils and water sources. The Fire Department is committed to ensuring a safe response to incidents for the public and firefighters. This funding allows the department to purchase additional foam and foam equipment to support operations at a hydro-carbon fuel fire that may occur on the railway. This equipment will also support daily operations of the Fire Department for any hydro-carbon fuel fires that occur off the railway and within the City of Allentown.

- Purpose – Please include the following in your explanation:
 - a. What are the specific goals or tasks the bill seeks to accomplish?

This bill will allocate funding to be used to purchase and enhance firefighting foam and equipment related to supporting firefighting foam.

- b. How does this bill relate to the City's vision/mission/priorities?

This bill relates to the City's vision and mission by providing equipment to ensure all Fire personnel will be properly trained to protect and serve the citizens of Allentown and provide a safe City for all who live, work and visit the City of Allentown. It has always been the City of Allentown's priority, as well as every elected official to provide safe and efficient Public Safety services to ensure a safe environment.

- Funding Sources – Please include the following in your explanation:
 - a. If transferring funds, please make sure to give specific account names and numbers. If appropriating funds from a grant, please list the agency awarding the grant.

Appropriate \$18,000.00 that was awarded to the Allentown Fire Department from the Norfolk Southern Safety-First Grant from Acct #000-5240 to 000-05-0803-0002-72.

- Priority status – Are there any deadlines to be aware of?

The grant must be fully expended within one year of receipt.

- Why should Council unanimously support this bill?

The Fire Department is committed to ensuring a safe response to incidents for the public and firefighters. This funding allows the department to purchase additional foam and foam equipment to support operations at a hydro-carbon fuel fire that may occur on the railway. This equipment will also support daily operations of the Fire Department for any hydro-carbon fuel fires that occur off the railway and within the City of Allentown.