

**Insurance Commissioner, including insurance tax payments to fire departments
Budget 401
Senate Bill No. 2010; House Bill No. 1014**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2007-09 legislative appropriation	46.50		\$14,482,107	\$14,482,107
2005-07 legislative appropriation	<u>46.50</u>		<u>13,679,655</u>	<u>13,679,655</u>
2007-09 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2005-07 appropriation	0.00	\$0	\$802,452	\$802,452

NOTE: The 2007-09 legislative appropriation amounts include \$26,983 of other funds for the agency's share of the \$10 million funding pool appropriated to the Office of Management and Budget for special market equity adjustments for classified employees.

Item Description

Insurance tax payments to fire departments - The Legislative Assembly provided a \$6,320,000 special funds appropriation from the insurance tax distribution fund to the Insurance Commissioner for insurance tax payments to fire departments (\$6.2 million) and for two equal payments to the North Dakota Firefighter's Association (\$120,000). This is the same level of funding provided for in the 2005-07 biennium.

Grant to the North Dakota Firefighter's Association - The Legislative Assembly provided a \$170,000 special funds appropriation from the fire and tornado fund to the Insurance Commissioner for a grant to the North Dakota Firefighter's Association for the 2007-09 biennium. In previous bienniums, the Legislative Assembly appropriated this funding to the Office of Management and Budget.

Cost-benefit analyses of health insurance coverage mandates - The Legislative Assembly provided funding of \$55,000 from special funds for cost-benefit analyses of legislative measures being considered by the 2009 Legislative Assembly mandating health insurance coverage as required by North Dakota Century Code Section 54-03-28. This is the same level of funding provided for in the 2005-07 biennium for legislative measures considered by the 2007 Legislative Assembly.

Firefighters' death benefits - Senate Bill No. 2183 provides a \$50,000 continuing appropriation from insurance premium tax collections to the Insurance Commissioner for providing firefighters' death benefits.

Status/Result

The Insurance Commissioner distributed \$3.1 million in insurance tax payments to fire departments in September 2007 and will distribute the remaining \$3.1 million in September 2008.

The Insurance Commissioner provided a grant of \$60,000 to the North Dakota Firefighter's Association in September 2007 and will provide the remaining \$60,000 grant to the association in September 2008.

The Insurance Commissioner has distributed \$85,000 of the \$170,000 grant to the North Dakota Firefighter's Association. The remaining funds will be distributed in fiscal year 2009.

The Insurance Commissioner is in the process of receiving bids for cost-benefit analyses of health insurance coverage mandates for the 2009 Legislative Assembly. After reviewing bids, the Insurance Commissioner will recommend to the Legislative Council an entity to contract with for the cost-benefit analyses of health insurance coverage mandates.

The Insurance Commissioner has not paid any firefighters' death benefits for the 2007-09 biennium.