

From: [Lawson, Mike R.](#)
To: [Turcott, Mike \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [Young, Betty \(UTC\)](#); [Whitcomb, Tyler \(UTC\)](#); [Terrell, Quita \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Re: Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) Application - TR-230879
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 7:29:56 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

External Email

Sorry for the delay...

South King Fire wishes to withdraw its GCPF application in Docket TR-230879

Michael R. Lawson | Captain | South King Fire & Rescue |
Hazmat Team Leader

31617 1st Ave S, Federal Way, WA 98003

Business: 253-839-6234 | **Station 61:** 253-946-7311 | **Mobile:** 253-632-4246

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From: Turcott, Mike (UTC) <mike.turcott@utc.wa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 6:28 AM
To: Lawson, Mike R. <Mike.Lawson2@SOUTHKINGFIRE.ORG>
Cc: Young, Betty (UTC) <betty.young@utc.wa.gov>; Whitcomb, Tyler (UTC) <tyler.whitcomb@utc.wa.gov>; Terrell, Quita (UTC) <quita.terrell@utc.wa.gov>
Subject: RE: Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) Application - TR-230879

CAUTION: This email originated outside the District. Do not click links or open attachments unless you are expecting them from the sender.

Captain,

I'm happy to provide some additional feedback, but to close the docket I will ask you to kindly reply to this email with language to the effect **“South King Fire wishes to withdraw its GCPF application in Docket TR-230879”**.

Thanks, now for feedback. There are four Rail Safety staff members at the UTC who evaluate incoming GCPF grant applications, strictly adhering to the criteria for GCPF grants set out in RCW and WAC. We evaluate each project individually before meeting and discussing as a group. We make a non-binding recommendation on each project to the three-member Commission who makes the final decision.

The consensus was that the grant to purchase the first drone for railroad accident use had a clear connection to “improving public safety at grade crossings and along railroad rights-of-

way”. Even though this was a reactive rather than a proactive measure, we believed that the project would benefit public safety AFTER a derailment by allowing your team to more quickly assess and mitigate the accident scene.

The grant application for the second drone added redundancy but didn't provide the same **added value** as the first grant. Further, we believed that much of the value of redundancy provided by the second drone could be achieved by purchasing additional batteries and a charging hub.

Mike Turcott

(he/him)

Transportation Planning Specialist - Rail Safety

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

360-664-1119

mike.turcott@utc.wa.gov

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This email states the informal opinion of commission staff, offered as technical assistance, and is not intended as legal advice. We reserve the right to amend these opinions should circumstances change or additional information be brought to our attention. Staff's opinions are not binding on the commission.

From: Lawson, Mike R. <Mike.Lawson2@SOUTHKINGFIRE.ORG>

Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 10:10 AM

To: Turcott, Mike (UTC) <mike.turcott@utc.wa.gov>; Young, Betty (UTC) <betty.young@utc.wa.gov>; Whitcomb, Tyler (UTC) <tyler.whitcomb@utc.wa.gov>

Subject: Re: Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) Application - TR-230879

External Email

Mike,

Thanks for considering our grant proposal. I don't believe we will request any further

consideration, however if you could provide any additional feedback, that would be appreciated. I still believe that the original grant award will help protect the community from any grade crossing train accidents, and we appreciate the award. Other departments in the Puget Sound region effected by grade crossings are working towards funding a similar program. If you see other requests, I would encourage you to consider them. A robust drone response from first responders in the area will make a huge difference if we were ever faced with a major train derailment. Thank you for all your work.

Michael R. Lawson | Captain | South King Fire & Rescue |
Hazmat Team Leader

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From: Turcott, Mike (UTC) <mike.turcott@utc.wa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 4:24 PM

To: Lawson, Mike R. <Mike.Lawson2@SOUTHKINGFIRE.ORG>

Cc: Young, Betty (UTC) <betty.young@utc.wa.gov>; Whitcomb, Tyler (UTC) <tyler.whitcomb@utc.wa.gov>

Subject: Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) Application - TR-230879

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Captain Lawson,

Thank you for providing the additional information in support of South King Fire's application for GCPF funds, UTC docket TR-230879.

UTC Rail staff are not recommending the project for funding. It is Rail staff's opinion that the justification provided does not support the funding of a second drone and the request is beyond the scope and intent of the UTC's Grade Crossing Protective Fund.

South King Fire may request that the matter be considered by the UTC at an upcoming open public meeting, or it may withdraw its application. Appearing before the UTC can be done in person or virtually via Zoom. South King Fire would then have an opportunity to address the three UTC commissioners and make a presentation to support its grant request. UTC Rail staff would also address the commissioners.

Please let me know if South King Fire wishes to have the matter heard at the UTC's open meeting, or withdraw its application. Happy to discuss if you have questions.

Mike Turcott

(he/him)

Transportation Planning Specialist - Rail Safety

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

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