



## Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs



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## Congressional Fire Services Institute Federal Priorities for Fire Service Safety and Sustainability

- **Additional financial support** for getting yearly physicals and medical examinations for the volunteer sector of the fire service.
- Assist in solving the **cost of apparatus** spiraling out of control
- More **tax breaks for the volunteer service** to assist in recruiting and retention
- **Remove emissions requirements for public safety vehicles.** Problems: Limp mode, maintenance issues leading to increased maintenance costs
- Create federal firefighter/EMS **workforce stabilization funding**
- Establish grant programs to **support recruitment, retention incentives, and benefits** that offset inflation and licensing costs.
- **Recognize EMS** as an essential federal function
- **Integrate EMS** more formally into federal emergency planning and grant eligibility, ensuring stable national readiness.
- **Support mental health** and burnout mitigation programs.
- **Fund national behavioral health resources** for fire/EMS personnel and require agencies to adopt standardized wellness programs.

