

Resolution No. 30

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Occupational Health & Safety

Re: Open Behavioral Health Center in Midwest

1 WHEREAS, in the course of doing their jobs,
2 firefighters are confronted with an array of horrors
3 few others can imagine, and the immediate and
4 cumulative impact of these experiences can result in
5 post-traumatic stress injuries as well as lead to
6 unhealthy or dangerous effects such as marital
7 problems, substance abuse and suicide; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2017, the International
9 Association of Fire Fighters opened the first-ever
10 behavioral health treatment facility specifically for
11 firefighters, the IAFF Center of Excellence for
12 Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery; and

13 WHEREAS, the International Association of Fire
14 Fighters will soon open their second behavioral
15 health treatment facility specifically for firefighters
16 located in California; and

17 WHEREAS, the IAFF Center of Excellence
18 provide focused and customized clinical treatment
19 and peer support tailored to the specific needs of first
20 responders and conducted in a familiar firehouse
21 environment; and

22 WHEREAS, the scope and breadth of incidents
23 faced by firefighters, as well as the large
24 concentration of IAFF members located within the
25 Midwest region, points to a substantial need for these
26 types of services directly within the Midwest; and

27 WHEREAS, the stigma of behavioral health is
28 dissipating, and trends have shown more IAFF

29 members seeking behavioral health than any other
30 time in our union's history; and

31 WHEREAS, the locations of the IAFF Center of
32 Excellence in Maryland and the soon to be
33 established IAFF Center of Excellence in California
34 leave a significant geographic barrier for Midwest
35 firefighters and other firefighters in need located
36 within the large gap between the East and West
37 coasts; therefore be it

38 RESOLVED, That the IAFF shall work with an
39 industry partner to conduct a feasibility study to
40 establish a third IAFF Center of Excellence within
41 the Midwest region; and be it further

42 RESOLVED, That such a Midwest IAFF
43 Behavioral Health Center should have clinical and
44 support resources that are, at a minimum, equivalent
45 to those provided through the IAFF Centers of
46 Excellence for Behavioral Health Treatment and
47 Recovery in Maryland and California.

Submitted by: IAFF Local 136, Dayton

Cost Estimate:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CONVENTION ACTION: