Walton County Department Agenda Request

Department Name: **Walton County Fire Rescue**

Department Head/Representative: **Kevin Haney**

Meeting Date Request: **11/03/2026**

Has this topic been discussed at past meetings? **No**

If so, When?

TOPIC: **Physical Agility and Training Equipment**

Wording For Agenda: **Request to apply for Physical Agility equipment grant from Walton County Health Care Foundation**

This Request: Informational Purposes Only **yes** Needs Action by Commissioners* **yes**

*What action are you seeking from the Commissioners? **approval**

Department Comments/Recommendation: **This is a 100% grant no matching funds. Grant request letter and Justification letter attached.**

Additional Documentation Attached? **Yes**

Is review of this request or accompanying documentation by the County Attorney required? **no**

If so, has a copy of the documentation been forwarded to County Attorney?

Date forwarded to County Attorney:

Has the County Attorney review been completed? **no**

If this request involves the expenditure of county funds, please answer the following:
Approved in current budget?
Budget information attached?
Comments:

Purchasing Department Comments:

County Attorney Comments:

Chairman's Comments:

Walton County Fire Rescue
Training Division

GRANT REQUEST

Firefighter Physical Agility and Operational Readiness Training System

September 21, 2026

Walton County Health Care Foundation, Inc.
Grant Review Committee

Re: Equipment Grant Request - $57,265

Dear Grant Review Committee:

I am requesting $57,265 on behalf of Walton County Fire Rescue to purchase the Firesled Fitness and Training FPAT system. We plan to use this equipment for firefighter physical agility testing, recruit training, and ongoing training to keep our firefighters physically prepared for the job.

Walton County Fire Rescue provides fire protection, basic life support medical response, hazardous materials response, technical rescue, water rescue and dive operations, severe-weather response, fire prevention, and public education. We operate 12 stations serving the unincorporated areas of Walton County. The county's estimated population was 112,696 as of July 1, 2025, and our department must continue preparing to meet the needs of a growing community.

This equipment is designed around the work our firefighters actually do. It allows us to train and evaluate hose pulls, ceiling breach, victim drags, ladder carries, forcible entry, crawling, carrying weight, and climbing. We can also use it in recruit school, SCBA and air-management drills, firefighter survival and RIT training, company training, and officer development.

Based on our review, Firesled Fitness and Training is the only company we have identified that offers this equipment in the specific combined design we need. For that reason, we are including one vendor quote along with an explanation of why three bids are not being submitted. The total cost is $57,265, which includes $52,465 for equipment and training and $4,800 for freight.

I believe this purchase would be a good investment for our department because it will be used for much more than a single physical agility test. We can put it to work throughout a firefighter's career, from recruit school through continuing training. Thank you for considering our request and for your support of the firefighters who serve Walton County.

Respectfully,

Patrick McCullough
Training Chief
Walton County Fire Rescue
1000 Heritage Parkway
Monroe, Georgia 30655
Training Division: 770-267-1311

Walton County Fire Rescue
Training Division

EQUIPMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT & PURCHASE JUSTIFICATION

Physical Agility and Firefighter Training Equipment

Purpose

As the Training Division, we need equipment that lets us evaluate our firefighters' physical abilities and train them on the same tasks they will face on the fireground. Firefighting is physically demanding, especially when working in full gear and SCBA. Strength and endurance matter, but so does being able to move, work, and make good decisions when tired. Regular gym equipment does not give us a good way to measure all of that. The proposed Firesled equipment would give us a consistent way to conduct physical agility evaluations while also providing equipment we can use for pre-hire certified physical agility testing, recruit school, firefighter training, fitness, and everyday operational readiness.

Identified Department Need

Right now, we need a more consistent way to conduct physical agility evaluations without putting together a course from different pieces of equipment each time. We should be able to set up the same course, use the same equipment, and hold everyone to the same expectations. I also want this equipment to be useful beyond the evaluation itself. We can use it during recruit school, company drills, remedial training, officer development, and physical fitness training. It allows us to work on hose pulls, ladder movement, forcible entry, ceiling breaches, victim drags, crawling, carries, and climbing.

Proposed Equipment

The quote dated September 17, 2026, includes a Firesled Multi Purpose Trainer for hose pulls, ceiling breaches, victim drags, and ladder carries; a Punisher forcible-entry trainer with adjustable resistance and a dead-blow hammer; and an adjustable Firesled Edition Laddermill with a mobility package. The testing package also includes 20-, 25-, and 45-pound kettlebells, weight plates, a crawl mat, 24-inch and 36-inch stands, a Firesled Jr., three sections of simulated charged hose, gloves in multiple sizes, helmets, cones, delineator tubes and bases, and two 30-pound training packs with added weights up to 50 pounds. Two days of vendor instruction are included for equipment use, maintenance, FPAT course setup, and training.

Primary Use - Physical Agility Testing

The main reason I am requesting this equipment is to give WCFR a standardized physical agility course. We need to evaluate people on movements that are related to the work we actually do, not just general exercises. With this system, we can set up a course and have each participant complete the same tasks under the same conditions. It could be used for applicants, recruits, and other approved department evaluations. Before using any results for hiring or promotions, we would work with county Human Resources and legal counsel to make sure the process is appropriate and defensible.

Recruit School

This equipment would be a great addition to our recruit school. We could start recruits on individual movements and build up to more demanding evolutions as they progress. They would get practice pulling hose, carrying ladders, striking a forcible-entry prop, breaching ceilings, dragging victims, crawling, carrying weight, and climbing. It would also help our instructors see early on where a recruit is struggling so we can work on that skill before it becomes a bigger problem during live training or on the fireground.

Incumbent Firefighter Fitness and Readiness

I do not want this to be equipment that only gets used when we conduct an agility test. Our firefighters could use the stations for regular fitness training and company-level drills. We could set up circuits that simulate actual work and give personnel a way to track their progress. This would help us focus on maintaining the physical ability needed to do the job throughout a firefighter's career.

Fireground Skills Training

Another major benefit is that the equipment can be worked into the training we already conduct. We can use it for hose advancement, forcible entry, ladder handling, victim removal, overhead work, crawling, and moving tools. We can also put several stations together to make firefighters complete multiple tasks while fatigued. That gives us an opportunity to reinforce proper technique and safe work habits under more realistic physical demands.

SCBA and Air-Management Training

We can also use this equipment for SCBA and air-management drills. Firefighters could work through a set course while wearing SCBA, and instructors could monitor their work time, air use, and recovery. The weighted packs would help add resistance when appropriate. This gives us another way to teach personnel to manage their air, recognize fatigue, and understand how their work pace affects how long they can operate.

Officer Development and Promotional Applications

The equipment can be used for officer development as well. We could build scenarios where an officer has to assign work, communicate with a crew, keep track of progress, and recognize when firefighters are getting fatigued. It could also support practical exercises during promotional testing if those exercises are properly developed and approved. This allows us to evaluate leadership and decision-making while crews are completing physical tasks.

Remedial and Return-to-Training Applications

One thing I like about this system is that we can train on one task at a time. If someone needs additional work on hose movement, ladder handling, forcible entry, victim drags, or endurance, we can focus on that specific area instead of making them complete an entire course. It could also be useful for gradually bringing someone back into training after an injury, once they have been cleared and all medical, HR, workers' compensation, and department requirements have been met.

Instructor Development and Standardization

The quote includes two days of training from the vendor, which will help our instructors learn the proper setup, use, and maintenance of the equipment. I would have the Training Division establish a standard course layout and written procedures so the course is run the same way regardless of who is instructing. We would also identify who is responsible for inspections, participant safety, scoring, and documentation.

Additional Department Uses

- New-hire orientation and baseline familiarization
- Recruit academy physical training and skills development
- Annual firefighter fitness/readiness activities
- Company-level physical training
- Hose-handling and advancement drills
- Forcible-entry training
- Ladder-handling drills
- Victim rescue and firefighter-drag exercises
- SCBA endurance and air-management drills
- Mayday/RIT and firefighter-survival training circuits
- Work/rest and rehabilitation demonstrations
- Officer-development and promotional practical exercises, where appropriate
- Training competitions and crew-building activities
- Remedial skills training

• Continuing education, skills maintenance, and instructor-development exercises

Cost and Utilization

The equipment subtotal is $52,465, with $4,800 in freight, bringing the total requested purchase to $57,265. This is a substantial purchase, but it would not be limited to one test or one group of employees. We could use the same equipment for applicants, recruit school, current firefighters, company training, officer development, and ongoing fitness and skills training. The individual pieces can be used on their own or combined into a full training course, giving us several ways to put the equipment to work.

Implementation

If approved, I recommend that the Training Division oversee the equipment and its use. We would need to establish procedures for setup, safe operation, inspections, maintenance, instructor responsibilities, and recordkeeping. Any agility test or promotional evaluation used to make personnel decisions would be coordinated with county Human Resources and legal counsel before use.

Recommendation

I recommend that Walton County Fire Rescue move forward with purchasing the proposed Firesled Fitness and Training FPAT system for the quoted total of $57,265, following the county's normal purchasing and budget process. This would give us a consistent way to conduct physical agility evaluations while also improving the training opportunities we can provide across the department. In my opinion, the value is in how often we can use this equipment and how many different areas of firefighter training it can support, from new applicants and recruits to experienced firefighters and officers.

Training Chief / Date

Fire Chief / Date