**Proposed Resolution**

**Submitted for Consideration at the 2018 PFFO Convention**

**WHEREAS:** The IAFF Center of Excellence behavioral health treatment facility designed for professional firefighters was opened Spring 2017 in Marlboro, Maryland; and

**WHEREAS:** The Center of Excellence treatment programs are limited to IAFF members who are suffering from PTSD, substance abuse, suicidal tendencies and other behavioral health issues; and

**WHEREAS:** Most if not all medical plans with a behavioral health benefit require extensive co-pay or out of pocket expenses and some insurance plans do not provide behavioral health benefits at all; and

**WHEREAS:** This insurance benefit limitation may eliminate firefighters from entering the treatment programs and receiving the best possible care for their behavioral health issues at the Center of Excellence; and

**WHEREAS:**  We desire as District 11 members to assist a brother or sister IAFF firefighter needing treatment at the Center of Excellence with funding for their co-pay or out of pocket expenses; and

**WHEREAS:** The IAFF District 11 Vice President has established the District 11 IAFF Center of Excellence Benevolence Fund committee to be made up of Texas and Oklahoma IAFF leaders who will oversee the fund, disburse benefits and provide to each state convention a detailed written report, and

**WHEREAS:** Resolution 15A was adopted by the delegates assembled at the 2017 Biennial convention of the Texas State Association of Firefighters in San Marcos, Texas with a per capita tax of .05 per member per month dedicated to the District 11 Center of Excellence Benevolent Fund, and

**WHEREAS:** Adoption of TSAFF Resolution 15A began the funding for the District 11 Center of Excellence Benevolent Fund with the understanding that the delegates assembled at the 2018 Professional Firefighters of Oklahoma convention would also adopt a dedicated per capita tax of at least .05 per member per month or the District 11 Center of Excellence Benevolent Fund would revert to a Texas only program.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**  Beginning March 1, 2018 the per capita of the PFFO will increase .05 per member per month to provide dedicated funding for the District 11 Center of Excellence Benevolence Fund; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:** The District 11 IAFF Center of Excellence Benevolent Fund program will be reviewed at the TSAFF Biennial convention in 2019 and the PFFO annual convention in 2020 to determine the viability and continuance of the program; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:** The District 11 IAFF Center of Excellence Benevolent Fund committee will provide at each state convention a detailed written report; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:** Commencement of this program is contingent upon the successful adoption of same by the Professional Firefighters of Oklahoma in February 2018.

**Submitted by:** The PFFO Executive Board