



BROOKE'S BPW BRIEF

✓ *Breaking down the Board of Public Works*

Meeting Date

July 5, 2023

ZERO EMISSION VEHICLE FLEET TRANSITION STUDIES



The BPW awarded 5 firms a contract to perform **feasibility studies** on an as-needed basis at institutions throughout the University System of Maryland (USM) **on the conversion of the existing fleet of State-owned internal combustion engine vehicles with electric vehicles.** This item supports the USM commitment to implement a Zero-Emission Vehicle fleet by 2035.

FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT SETTLEMENT



The BPW approved a **\$13 million settlement to resolve claims of unpaid wages** resulting from a U.S. Department of Labor investigation into violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act by Maryland's Dept. of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS). DPSCS agreed to pay back wages owed to 3,874 current and former correctional officers from a period between 2018 and 2021.

Summary Figures

The BPW approved 100 items, representing a total State expenditure of \$429,197,616, including:

- 4 items awarding \$6.8 million to prime certified small businesses
- 4 items awarding \$5.97 million to prime minority business enterprises
- 1 item awarding \$3.6 million to Employment Works Program providers
- 11 items awarded with established participation goals for minority business enterprises
- 2 items awarded with established participation goals for veteran-owned small business enterprises

COMPENSATION TO WRONGFULLY CONVICTED INDIVIDUAL



The BPW awarded **\$2.99 million in compensation and housing benefits** to John Huffington, who served 31 years (11,575 days) in prison after being **wrongfully convicted in 1981 and sentenced to death** for murder and burglary. His sentence was vacated in 2013. In 2021, the **Harford County State's Attorney who represented the state in this case was disbarred** for prosecutorial misconduct - he withheld exculpatory evidence that would have proven Mr. Huffington's innocence.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 OPERATING GRANTS



The BPW approved grants for FY24 to 17 organizations, totaling \$30.4 million, including: \$1.5 million to the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Art and Culture for the **2023 Artscape Festival**; \$11.5 million to the Chesapeake Bay Trust to fund mandatory appropriations for the **Chesapeake Conservation Corps and the Urban Trees Program**; and \$350,000 to the **Western Maryland Scenic Railroad** for operation and maintenance expenses.