



# AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Edward D. Reiskin  
City Administrator

**FROM:** Melinda A. Drayton  
Interim Fire Chief

**SUBJECT:** FY 2020 Assistance to Firefighters  
Grant Program - COVID-19  
Supplemental

**DATE:** February 1, 2021

City Administrator Approval 

Date: Feb 18, 2021

## RECOMMENDATION

**Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution: (1) Authorizing The City Administrator, Or His Designee, To: (A) Enter Into An Agreement With The U.S. Department Of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) To Accept The Assistance To Firefighters Grant (AFG) COVID-19 Supplemental Funds In The Amount Of Two Hundred Six Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Four Dollars And Thirty Six Cents (\$206,564.36) To Purchase Equipment And Other Necessary Resources For The Project Period Starting July 6, 2020 And Ending July 5, 2021; (B) Appropriate and Administer Said Funds For The Fire Department; (C) Expend Assistance To Firefighter Funds In Accordance With The City's Purchasing Requirements And Programs/Policies; And (2) Allocating Matching Funds In The Amount Of Twenty Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Six Dollars And Forty Four Cents (\$20,656.44).**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On July 7, 2020, the Oakland Fire Department (OFD) was notified that its application for FY 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program - COVID 19 Supplemental (AFG-S) Funds was successful and that the Department would be awarded two hundred six thousand five hundred and sixty-four dollars and thirty six cents (\$206,564.36) to purchase equipment and other necessary resources, and to reimburse costly expenditures by the Fire Department for items such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) are a tremendous asset to the Oakland Fire Department. These grants provide direct financial assistance to obtain critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operations the Department's efficiencies, and support community resilience.

## **BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

Since 2001, FEMA's AFG program has helped firefighters and other first responders obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training and other resources necessary for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards. The Oakland Fire Department has a successful record of applying of being awarded these AFG grants. For over a decade, the City Council has adopted resolutions to authorizing the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with U.S. Department Of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to accept, appropriate, and administer Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program funds for equipment, supplies, wellness program services, and vehicles.

## **ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES**

The City of Oakland was operating under financial distress prior to the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, and the city's fiscal situation, like most cities around the country, has only worsened during the COVID-19 public health crisis. Concurrently, the Fire Department experienced a sharp increase in PPE costs associated with properly outfitting OFD personnel. In the first three months of 2020, Oakland Fire expended over \$300,000 in PPE alone. All indications are that these increased PPE costs will not diminish in the coming months or years, possibly.

By accepting and administering these Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program - COVID-19 Supplemental (AFG-S) funds, the Department will be reimbursed for the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment and related supplies to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. The equipment purchased by the Department is being used daily in the fire station and in the community by OFD personnel to prevent the spread of infection.

As noted in the grant award letter (**Attachment A**), FEMA approved the following PPE items were eligible for reimbursement through the AFG grant:

- Isolation Gowns
- Gloves
- Eye Protection
- Protective Coveralls
- Respirators
- And miscellaneous supplies such as hand sanitizer.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

As a condition of this grant, the City of Oakland is required to contribute non-Federal funds equal to or greater than ten percent (10%) of the Federal funds awarded, or twenty thousand six hundred fifty-six dollars and forty-four cents (\$20,656.44), for a total approved budget of \$227,220.80. Matching funds shall be drawn from the Department's current General Funds (Fund 1010).

SOURCES OF FUNDING:

- U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency's Firefighters Grant - \$206,564.36
- City of Oakland 10% match: \$20,656.44

PERFORMANCE PERIOD: July 6, 2020 to July 5, 2021.

There are no personnel costs associated with this grant, only equipment and supply costs.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST**

No outreach was deemed necessary for the proposed policy action beyond the standard City Council agenda noticing procedures.

**COORDINATION**

The Office of the City Attorney and the Budget Bureau were consulted in the preparation of this report.

**SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

***Economic:*** Acceptance of this grant will provide relief to the general fund by providing two hundred six thousand five hundred and sixty four dollars and thirty six cents (\$206,564.36) in reimbursement funding.

***Environmental:*** There are no environmental opportunities or direct impacts associated with this report.

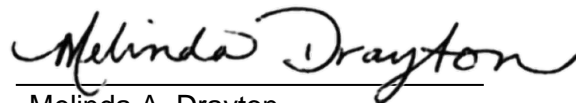
***Race and Equity:*** Acceptance of this grant will help ensure that OFD personnel have the necessary equipment and supplies to prevent the spread of infection, such as COVID 19, in communities that are already disproportionately impacted by the current pandemic and other pervasive health inequities.

**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution: (1) Authorizing The City Administrator, Or His Designee, To: (A) Enter Into An Agreement With The U.S. Department Of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) To Accept The Assistance To Firefighters Grant (AFG) COVID-19 Supplemental Funds In The Amount Of Two Hundred Six Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Four Dollars And Thirty Six Cents (\$206,564.36) To Purchase Equipment And Other Necessary Resources For The Project Period Starting July 6, 2020 And Ending July 5, 2021; (B) Appropriate and Administer Said Funds For The Fire Department; (C) Expend Assistance To Firefighter Funds In Accordance With The City's Purchasing Requirements And Programs/Policies; And (2) Allocating Matching Funds In The Amount Of Twenty Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Six Dollars And Forty Four Cents (\$20,656.44).

For questions regarding this report, please contact Michael Hunt, Chief of Staff, Oakland Fire Department, at 510-238-6353.

Respectfully submitted,



Melinda A. Drayton  
Interim Fire Chief, Fire

Attachment A: FEMA Award Letter