




AGENDA REPORT

TO: Edward D. Reiskin
City Administrator

FROM: Melinda A. Drayton
Interim Fire Chief

SUBJECT: FY 2019 Federal Emergency
Management Agency (FEMA)
Assistance to Firefighters Grant

DATE: October 12, 2020

City Administrator Approval 

Date: Nov 2, 2020

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution: (1) Authorizing The City Administrator, Or 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) Funds In The Amount Of One Million Two Hundred Sixteen Thousand One Hundred And Ninety Two Dollars (\$1,216,192) To Purchase Equipment And Other Necessary Resources For The Project Period Starting September 29, 2020 And Ending September 28, 2021; (B) Appropriate and Administer Said Funds For The Fire Department; (C) Expend AFG Funds In Accordance With The City's Purchasing Requirements And Programs/Policies; And (2) Allocating Matching Funds In The Amount Of One Hundred Twenty One Thousand Six Hundred And Nineteen Dollars And Twenty Two Cents (\$121,619.22).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2020, the Oakland Fire Department (OFD) was awarded Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Funds in the amount of one million two hundred sixteen thousand one hundred and ninety-two dollars (\$1,216,192) to purchase equipment and other necessary resources. The grant is intended to fund the purchase of a new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and new face pieces compatible with the SCBA complement.

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. This year, Oakland Fire applied for an approximately one million seven hundred thousand-dollar (\$1,700,000) grant and was ultimately awarded one million two hundred sixteen thousand one hundred and ninety-two dollars (\$1,216,192).

ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES

By accepting and administering these FEMA funds, OFD will be replacing the current inventory of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), to include a harness, two (2) cylinders and a face piece. This is essential and necessary as OFD will replace one hundred and eighty (180) SCBAs that are in various stages of lifespan. A retrofit was completed approximately ten (10) years ago to bring the SCBAs and masks into compliance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1981 standards (2007 edition).

There are still critical components currently in use that were not included in that retrofit, such as the breathing regulators that are now over fifteen (15) years old. OFD recently had to issue a "Safety Alert" to all members due to multiple failures of the rear Universal Air Connection (UAC) on multiple SCBAs. The acceptance of these funds will allow OFD to come into compliance with the 2018 edition of NFPA 1981 and avoid the increasing likelihood of a critical failure with OFD's current SCBAs. We have 180 SCBAs in use, along with 439 individual face pieces. Acceptance of the funds along with City matching funds will replace OFD's current SCBAs, and get the department closer to ensuring that there is a face piece for every frontline individual.

Within the past year, the department invested several thousand dollars to maintain and repair the department's antiquated SCBAs simply to keep them operational. This was not an efficient, nor an effective model, and it required additional logistical coordination that will no longer be necessary once this agreement is formalized and said funds are administered. The current SCBA utilized by OFD is no longer in production and

replacement parts are becoming more difficult to source. There is no foreseen downside to this strategy, and in the immediate term, the AFG funding will ensure the department has the operational equipment to support every OFD firefighter currently in the field.

To remain in compliance with grant requirements, FEMA stipulates that all equipment must be purchased by the Department within the grant's performance period which concludes on September 28, 2021.

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 one hundred twenty one thousand six hundred and nineteen dollars and twenty two cents (\$121,619.22) for a total approved budget of \$1,337,811.37. 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 - \$1,216,192
- City of Oakland 10% match: \$121,619.22

PERFORMANCE PERIOD: September 29, 2020 to September 28, 2021.

There are no personnel costs associated with this grant, only equipment 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 alternative funding to replace the current SCBA inventory in its entirety.

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

Race and Equity: Acceptance of this grant supports Oakland firefighters in their daily mission to protect lives and property throughout the community by ensuring access to this critical equipment.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution: (1) Authorizing The City Administrator, Or 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) Funds In The Amount Of One Million Two Hundred Sixteen Thousand One Hundred And Ninety Two Dollars (\$1,216,192) To Purchase Equipment And Other Necessary Resources For The Project Period Starting September 29, 2020 And Ending September 28, 2021; (B) Appropriate and Administer Said Funds For The Fire Department; (C) Expend AFG Funds In Accordance With The City's Purchasing Requirements And Programs/Policies; And (2) Allocating Matching Funds In The Amount Of One Hundred Twenty One Thousand Six Hundred And Nineteen Dollars And Twenty Two Cents (\$121,619.22).

For questions regarding this report, please contact Interim Assistant Chief Sean Laffan, at (510) 238-3858.

Respectfully submitted,



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Interim Fire Chief, Fire

Prepared by:
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