



AGENDA REPORT

TO: Edward D. Reiskin
City Administrator

FROM: Reginald D. Freeman
Fire Chief

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2021 FEMA Port Security
Grant

DATE: October 22, 2021

City Administrator Approval 

Date: Nov 4, 2021

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To: (1) Enter Into An Agreement With The U.S. Department Of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) To Accept A Port Security Grant In The Amount Of Eight Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$825,000.00) To Purchase A Fire Boat And Other Necessary Resources For The Period Starting September 1, 2021 Through August 31, 2024; (2) Appropriate and Administer Said Funds; (3) Expend Port Security Grant Funds In Accordance With The City's Purchasing Requirements And Programs/Policies; And (4) Allocating Funds In The Amount Of Two Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$275,000.00) As Required By The Grant Award To Cover The Remaining Cost Of The Fire Boat.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2021, the Oakland Fire Department (OFD) was notified that it's application for a FY 2021 Port Security Grant was successful and that the Department would be awarded eight hundred twenty-five thousand dollars to purchase a fire boat (Attachment A).

The \$825,000 in new funds will support the Fire Department's purchase of a long-awaited Emergency Response Vessel that will reside in the Oakland estuary adjacent to Station 2 in Jack London Square. This new fireboat will be used in conjunction with the department's existing water rescue boat, Marine 1, and will be designed and equipped to meet the modern-day challenges associated with protecting the estuary and waterfront.

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Since 2001, FEMA's grant funding 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 a range of hazards. The FEMA Port Security Grant Program provides \$100 million for transportation infrastructure security activities to implement Area Maritime Transportation Security Plans and

facility security plans among port authorities, facility operators, and state and local government agencies required to provide port security services.

The Oakland Fire Department has a successful record of being awarded these FEMA 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 program funds for equipment, supplies, wellness program services, and vehicles. However, until now, we had been unsuccessful applying for the funding to purchase a new fire boat.

The previous OFD fire boat was decommissioned in 2003.

ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES

FEMA grants are a tremendous asset to the Oakland Fire Department. Port Security Grant funding allows state, local and private-sector partners to help protect critical port infrastructure from terrorism, enhance maritime domain awareness, improve port-wide maritime security risk management, and maintain or reestablish maritime security mitigation protocols that support port recovery and resiliency capabilities. The OFD fire boat is expected to respond to all manner of emergencies in the Oakland estuary, at the Port of Oakland, and jointly in support of any incidents which occur in the bay.

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.

By accepting and administering these Port Security Grant funds, the Department will be able to purchase a new Fireboat. The previous OFD fire boat was decommissioned in 2003, as previously mentioned.

As of October 2021, the Oakland Fire Department has the current Marine response capabilities:

- Two inflatable rubber boats (Achilles and Zodiac) and 2 rescue boards. Their capability is to respond to shallow water incidents up to the mouth of the estuary, or shore-based rescue.
- The OFD Marine 1 "Safe Boat" is waiting for new motors. These are 3-4 weeks out. Once they arrive, OFD will again be able to assist in the Bay with rescues.

These vessels are housed at Fire Station #2 near Jack London Square. Station 2 is open on a temporary basis as the Fire Department continues to conduct ongoing capital improvement projects at other firehouses. There is no current timeline to open Station 2 permanently.

By comparison, the San Francisco Fire Department has the following Marine capabilities:

- Fire Boats

1 staffed daily
2 can be staffed within 1 hour

- Rescue Boats
2 cross-staffed by engines daily
1 on order to be added as a 3rd
- Rescue watercraft
4 cross-staffed by engines daily
- SFO AIRPORT
2 Rescue Boats cross-staffed by engine
1 air boat cross-staffed by engine
4 rescue watercrafts staffed by engines

OFD is cognizant of the budgetary limitations that exist in Oakland and how that has impeded this department's ability to repair and replace outdated infrastructure and apparatus in a timely manner. These grant funds will enable the department to respond to incidents at the Port of Oakland more effectively, while also making sure it remains equipped to continue protecting life and property along Oakland's vibrant waterfront.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Oakland Fire Department applied for and was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Port Security Grant Program in the amount of eight hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$825,000). As a condition of this grant, the City of Oakland is required to contribute a cost match of two hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$275,000) of non-Federal funds, or 25% of the total approved project costs of one million one hundred thousand dollars (\$1,100,000). There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund. The required grant matching funds of \$275,000 will be sourced from the Equipment Services Fund (4100).

Grant funds in an amount of \$825,000 will be appropriated to FEMA Fund (2124), Emergency Support Services Organization (20816), Vehicle Replacements (57612), Project to be determined, Support Service Program (PS26), and the revenue will be credited to FEMA revenue account (46130).

The Fire Department will use the Equipment Services Fund provided by Public Works Agency in an amount not to exceed \$275,000 for matching funds. The said matching funds will be drawn from the Equipment Services (4100) fund balance and will be appropriated in the Equipment Services Administration Organization (30541), Vehicle Additions Account (57611) and Facilities Management and Development Program (IN02).

PERFORMANCE PERIOD: September 1, 2021, to August 31, 2024.

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 \$825,000 in new grant funding to cover most of the fireboat purchase.

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

Race and Equity: There are no race and equity impacts related to the acceptance of this grant.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To: (1) Enter Into An Agreement With The U.S. Department Of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) To Accept A Port Security Grant In The Amount Of Eight Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$825,000.00) To Purchase A Fire Boat And Other Necessary Resources For The Period Starting September 1, 2021 Through August 31, 2024; (2) Appropriate and Administer Said Funds; (3) Expend Port Security Grant Funds In Accordance With The City's Purchasing Requirements And Programs/Policies; And (4) Allocating Funds In The Amount Of Two Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$275,000.00) As Required By The Grant Award To Cover The Remaining Cost Of The Fire Boat.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Reginald D. Freeman
Fire Chief

Attachment A: FEMA Award Letter

