

## Meeting Agendas/Info

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

**01-199**

**SYNOPSIS -**

**AGENDA:**

APRIL 23, 2001

The Fire Department has prepared a grant application to the United States Fire Administration's Firefighters Grant Program. The Fire Department is requesting funding toward a fire apparatus driver training curriculum now being researched through the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Transportation Institute.

**SUBJECT:**

GRANT  
APPLICATION-  
REQUESTING  
FUNDING FOR FIRE  
APPARATUS DRIVER  
TRAINING

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

The total budget request for this program is \$97,116, with federal funding of \$67,981.20 and a required City match of \$29,134.80. The Fire Department's share of the citywide benchmark training fund will be utilized to provide the 30 percent City match.

**TYPE:**

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**Approval.**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

RON WAKEHAM  
FIRE CHIEF

**BACKGROUND -**

In its 2001 appropriation (Public Law 106-398), Congress gave the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) the authority to carry out an initiative to provide assistance to firefighters. This assistance will be awarded directly to local fire departments on a competitive basis. Applications will be received from April 2 until May 2, and must be in regards to firefighter safety.

Next to fire ground accidents, the most likely cause of firefighter death or injury is involvement in apparatus accidents while responding to alarms (32 deaths in 1999). Although no Des Moines firefighter has been the victim of a fatal apparatus accident since 1970, we do record many weather related and preventable accidents annually. Therefore, the Fire Department in conjunction with

DMACC, is presently developing a curriculum of classroom study and practical skills to enhance the driving abilities of all our personnel who might be required to drive a fire apparatus.

The grant money requested would be for tuition and books, the cost of driving simulators, and the use of a driver's "skid pad" area at the college. Being a city with a population in excess of 50,000, we are required to provide a 30 percent match.

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