



Agenda Item:

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 03/28/05
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Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Roll Call No.:

Submitted by: Phillip C. Vorlander, Chief of the Fire Department

SUBJECT—

2005 Assistance to Firefighters Grant

SYNOPSIS—

The Des Moines Fire Department has prepared a grant application for submission to the Office for Domestic Preparedness, United States Department of Homeland Security 2005 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. The Fire Department requests authorization to submit the grant and specify the purchase and installation of AirMation® filter systems for city fire stations and facilities. The grant application also requests funds to purchase carbon monoxide detectors.

FISCAL IMPACT—

Cities with populations greater than 50,000 are required to provide a twenty percent (20%) match to the federal grant monies. The total amount required for this project is \$308,449. The amount of the grant, if awarded, would be \$246,759.20 and the twenty percent City match would be \$61,689.80. The Fire Department proposes to fund the required match from the Capital Improvement Budget, Fund CP041, Organization FIR990000, FIR016 Fire Station Remodeling.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

For the 2005 program year, the United States Congress appropriated \$650,000,000 for the purpose of providing one-year grants to fire departments to improve their capabilities and better meet their firefighting and emergency response challenges. We have developed an application under the *Modification to Fire Stations and Facilities* activity. Measures eligible for funding in this area must be designed to protect the health and safety of firefighting personnel. Allowable projects include the installation of sprinkler systems, installation of vehicle exhaust extraction systems, the installation of smoke and/or fire alarm notification systems, and the installation of emergency facility generators.

The Des Moines Fire Department respectfully requests authorization to submit a grant application for funding to assist in the purchase and installation of twenty-seven (27) AirMation® Filter Systems, nine (9) System Activation Controllers, and nine (9) photocell eyes in nine (9) of our ten (10) Department Fire Stations (Fire Station 3 has had the AirMation® equipment installed as part of the renovation project now nearing completion) and carbon monoxide detectors for all ten (10) Fire Stations. The Fire Department researched available products and determined that the AirMation® filtering equipment is the most effective and cost efficient system for our facilities and, if approved, our application will so specify. The Fire Department based its recommendation on the following facts: the installation of these multi-stage progressive filtration ceiling mounted units does not require alteration to facilities or fire apparatus; their effectiveness is not dependent on personnel attaching hoses to exhaust stacks; they filter particulates and toxic byproducts of combustion from not only motor vehicles, but also from the small engines that power devices such as circular ventilation saws, chain saws, hydraulic rescue tools, and positive pressure ventilation blowers; they allow for the assignment of reserve apparatus and the reassignment of apparatus and vehicles to any location; they operate automatically; there is no heat loss in that filtered air is recirculated; the units can be serviced by our personnel; and, they are not custom designed for each installation and thus can be moved from one location to another.

The carbon monoxide detectors will alert staff to dangerous, potentially fatal, accumulations from not only motor vehicle exhaust but also malfunctioning space and water heating systems.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant requires that equipment to be purchased be specified in the application, and, if authorization is granted by Council, ours will, based on the reasons cited above, specify AirMation® systems. Section 2-710(a) of the City Code provides that, "The city council may on a case by case basis, upon the recommendation of the city manager for good cause shown, exempt contracts for the provision of goods and/or services from the competitive procurement requirements of this subdivision, for the procurement of goods and/or services to cost in excess of \$25,000." The Fire Department believes that good cause exists to waive the competitive bid process and specify the procurement of the AirMation® Filter Systems product, and the City Manager has endorsed this recommendation.