

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	February 23, 2015
	Agenda Item No.	31
	Roll Call No.	<u>15-0316</u>
	Communication No.	<u>15-073</u>
	Submitted by:	John F. TeKippe, Fire Chief

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving application for U.S. Department of Homeland Security 2014 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend the City Council authorize the Fire Department to submit a U.S. Department of Homeland Security 2014 SAFER, approve pursuit of 15 Firefighters.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: If awarded, this SAFER grant program will pay for the salary and benefits of firefighters hired under SAFER funding during a two (2) year performance period. There is neither a City match nor requirement to maintain the positions following the performance period. Please note, grantees must agree to maintain the number of firefighting positions throughout the performance period by taking active and timely steps to fill any vacancies.

- Total cost of 15 new firefighter for two (2) years \$ 2,822,910
 - First year cost \$ 1,350,765
 - Second year cost \$ 1,472,145
- City contribution \$0

Funding Source: The SAFER Grant Program following award and designation of the performance period.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The grant obligation to maintain staffing levels is based on staffing levels at the time of application and becomes effective at the acceptance of the grant. Grant awards are anticipated to be made no later than September 30, 2015. The City is under no obligation to accept an award if offered.

SAFER was created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer fire fighter organizations to help them increase or maintain the number of trained firefighters available in their communities. The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire department’s abilities to comply with staffing, response, and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA); NFPA 1710 and/or 1720.

The purpose for SAFER funds would be to add 15 positions that have been lost to attrition as a result of budget cuts. The newly funded positions would increase the percentage of times that all frontline

fire apparatus are in service. Thus reducing the time for the minimum four (4) personnel that are required by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to initiate interior firefighting, regardless of whether they arrive in one (1) or more apparatus/vehicles. The primary goal is to have all frontline units in service. Next, is to ensure sufficient personnel are available on the first arriving apparatus to begin fighting the fire inside the building versus having to wait for a second arriving apparatus. Having to wait for a second apparatus delays fire suppression, searches, and other activities that impact responder and citizen safety. During the performance period, the department would measure the effectiveness of the program and report its findings to program administrators as a part of the grant program.

The Fire Department has an authorized strength of 283 personnel. Of these, 280 positions are funded and 268 are sworn. Of the sworn personnel 92% of them are assigned to stations. The remaining 8% of the sworn staff includes the Fire Chief/Administration, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Training, Prevention, and Special Operation section personnel. Including the Fire Chief and three (3) civilian supervisors, there are 12 supervisors total in the Fire Department.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: August 12, 2013

Roll Call Number: [13-1273](#)

Action: [Submission](#) of application for U.S. Department of Homeland Security Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program. ([Council Communication No. 13-415](#))
Moved by Moore to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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