



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



May 7, 2019

File ID: 19-0209

TITLE

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA ESTABLISHING COUNCIL COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT APPLICATION FOR THE 2018 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT TO HIRE 12 FIREFIGHTERS

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Council adopt the resolution.

SUMMARY

The Fire Department is requesting the City Council's commitment and support of its application for a federal grant to hire 12 firefighters. The proposed firefighters will staff a ninth engine company in the city (Millenia). The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant (SAFER) was created to provide funding directly to fire departments to increase or maintain the number of trained, "front line" firefighters available in their communities. The goal of the SAFER grant is to enhance the local fire department's abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Director of Development Services has reviewed the proposed activity for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has determined that the activity is not a "Project" as defined under Section 15378 of the State CEQA Guidelines because it will not result in a physical change in the environment; therefore, pursuant to Section 15060(c)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Thus, no environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Not applicable

DISCUSSION

The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grants (SAFER) was created to provide funding directly to fire departments to increase or maintain the number of trained, "front line" firefighters available in their communities. The goal of the SAFER grant is to enhance the local fire department's abilities to comply with staffing, response, and operational standards established by NFPA Standard 1710.

SAFER is a cost sharing grant over a three-year performance period. Eligible costs within the grant include salary and benefits beginning from the date of hire including fire academy training.

SAFER Cost Sharing

YEAR #	FEDERAL SHARE	*CITY SHARE
Year 1	75%	25%
Year 2	75%	25%
Year 3	35%	65%

***City Share will include General Fund and Measure A funds.**

Total Cost - Years 1 through 3 (if awarded SAFER grant to hire 12 firefighters)

Year #	FEDERAL SHARE	CITY SHARE
Year 1	\$1,227,429	\$409,143
Year 2	\$1,227,429	\$409,143
Year 3	\$572,801	\$1,063,771
Total	\$3,027,659*	\$1,882,057*
<p>*This table does not reflect Academy training cost beyond new hire salary & benefits, contractual or step salary increases, direct or indirect benefit increases due to the restrictions of the grant application process; however, these fiscal impacts are captured in the ongoing fiscal impact portion of this report below.</p>		

The SAFER grant application was submitted by the Fire Department on March 22, 2019. Typically, grant awards occur in several weekly allocation rounds that begin in mid-July and run through September. If awarded and accepted, the SAFER grant Program allows the recruitment and hiring of firefighters to occur up to six months prior to the beginning of the three-year performance period. To receive a SAFER grant award, grantees are required to maintain sworn staffing levels and incur no lay-offs of sworn personnel during the grant performance period.

To ensure there is a clear understanding of the long-term obligations of a SAFER grant and that if awarded, the City is committed to fulfilling those requirements upon acceptance of the award, staff is requesting City Council establish its commitment through Council Resolution. This commitment does not obligate the City to accept a grant award offer. However, commitment via Council Resolution is required by DHS as part of the grant application and acceptance process. Upon award of the grant, the Fire Department will return to Council seeking formal award acceptance and approval.

If awarded this grant, the Fire Department would staff a ninth engine intended to service Millenia and the eastern portion of the city. This additional resource will significantly increase response time performance as well as service delivery reliability.

Anticipated Department-wide Performance Improvements

METRIC	WITHOUT SAFER GRANT	WITH SAFER GRANT
Daily Staffing Firefighters	44	56
Daily Staffed Engine Companies	8	9
Effective Response Force-14 firefighters to arrive at fire within 10 minutes 20 seconds (620 seconds)	29%	50%

DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT

Staff has reviewed the decision contemplated by this action and has determined that it is not site-specific and consequently, the 500-foot rule found in California Code of Regulations Title 2, section 18702.2(a)(11), is not applicable to this decision for purposes of determining a disqualifying real property-related financial conflict of interest under the Political Reform Act (Cal. Gov't Code § 87100, et seq.).

Staff is not independently aware, and has not been informed by any City Council member, of any other fact that may constitute a basis for a decision maker conflict of interest in this matter.

CURRENT-YEAR FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact in FY2019 as a result of this resolution. This resolution is requesting formal documentation from the City Council to establish commitment and support of this grant application.

ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT

In the event the City is awarded and accepts this proposed 2018 SAFER grant, the ongoing fiscal impacts are shown in the table below.

Hiring 12 Firefighters				
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Annual Expense	\$ 1,636,577	\$ 1,749,959	\$ 1,893,399	\$ 2,041,986
Revenue Offset				
SAFER GRANT				
SAFER Funding % of Year 1 ⁽¹⁾	75%	75%	35%	0%
SAFER Funding	\$ 1,227,429	\$ 1,227,429	\$ 572,801	\$ -
Measure A				
3 Firefighter positions ⁽²⁾				\$ 510,497
General Fund Net Cost	\$ 409,147	\$ 522,530	\$ 1,320,598	\$ 1,531,490

(1) Per SAFER Grant, funding to provide reimbursement for 75% of Year 1 expenses for Year 1 and Year 2, with reimbursement % decreasing to 35% of Year 1 expenses for Year 3 (last year) of grant.

(2) Funding for three Firefighter positions assumed in Measure A Expenditure Plan. Assumes annual 5% Step Increase and 2% Salary Increase to match those for 12 FF positions.

Awards from this grant program are expected to take place between July and September of 2019. If awarded and then accepted by the City Council, the fiscal impact will occur in FY2020 and consideration must be made for funding solutions.

ATTACHMENTS

Not applicable

Staff Contact: Harry Muns, Deputy Chief Director of Operations