



Department: Fire
Cost Center: 8503
For Agenda of: 5/21/2024
Placement: Consent
Estimated Time: N/A

FROM: Todd Tuggle, Fire Chief
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SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY FISCAL YEAR 2023 FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANT

RECOMMENDATION

1. Authorize the Fire Department to apply for funding under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Program in the amount of \$16,280.00 to purchase 6 Powered Air-Purifying Respirators; and
2. Authorize the City Manager, or their designee, to execute the grant documents and approve the budget changes necessary to appropriate the grant amount upon notification that the grant has been awarded, a resolution is not required.

POLICY CONTEXT

The recommended actions are consistent with the City of San Luis Obispo's Financial Management Manual, Section 740 - Grant Management Policy. The policy states that Council will approve all grant applications in excess of \$5,000 and delegate receipt and contract execution to the City Manager.

DISCUSSION

State, federal, and non-profit grants are occasionally offered to assist local governments with the financial impacts associated with daily operations and/or mandated programs. The Fire Department actively seeks out these opportunities to enhance the effectiveness of the Department while increasing fiscal sustainability for the City. A recent grant opportunity was identified, which is in line with these goals and addresses a current need for the City: the FEMA Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 FP&S Program. The FY 2023 grant applications open in March 2024.

The Federal FP&S Grants are one of three grant programs within the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) that focus on enhancing the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The AFG Program accomplishes this goal by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments for critical training and equipment.

Among the five basic homeland security missions noted in the Department of Homeland Security's Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, the FP&S Program supports the goal to Strengthen National Preparedness and Resilience. For federal FY 2023, Congress appropriated \$36,000,000 in funding for FP&S and is projecting to award grants to 100 applicants.

The objectives of the AFG program are to provide critically needed resources that equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience.

Staff recommends seeking \$16,280.00 to purchase six Powered Air-Purifying Respirators, allowing the six investigators on the Prevention division of the San Luis Obispo Fire Department to each have a device ready for immediate use.

The Fire Investigators enter a post burn area when the toxic gas levels have reduced below dangerous levels. However, some gases still exist as well as particles capable of inhalation that, with repeated exposure, have been proven to be carcinogenic. A Powered Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR) is a portable battery powered respirator that filters air in the user's immediate environment, directing the clean, filtered air to the users face via a breathing tube. With the air being pushed into the user's breathe zone by a fan, positive pressure is created inside the user's mask preventing any unfiltered ambient air entering. The PAPR devices will protect the Fire Investigators from harmful gases at all levels and minute particles while completing investigations in a burn zone.

Previous Council or Advisory Body Action

On [August 15, 2023](#), the City Council authorized the fire department to apply for an AFG Program to send two firefighters to paramedic school and authorized the City Manager, or designee, to execute the grant documents and approve the budget changes necessary upon notification that the grant had been awarded.

On [March 15, 2022](#), the City Council authorized the fire department to apply for an AFG Program to purchase Urban Search & Rescue equipment and authorized the City Manager, or designee, to execute the grant documents and approve the budget changes necessary upon notification that the grant had been awarded.

Public Engagement

This item is on the agenda for the May 21, 2024, City Council meeting and will follow all required postings and notifications. The public will have an opportunity to comment on this item at or before the meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to the recommended action in this report, because the action does not constitute a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15378. If the work associated with the grant funding requires environmental review, staff will not proceed with the project until a review has been completed.

FISCAL IMPACT

Budgeted: No
Funding Identified: Yes

Budget Year: 2024-25

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	Total Budget Available	Current Funding Request	Remaining Balance	Annual Ongoing Cost
General Fund	\$	\$814.00	\$	\$
State				
Federal	\$16,280.00			
Fees				
Other:				
Total	\$16,280.00	\$814.00	\$	

If the Fire Department were to receive funding from the FP&S Program, the City would have to match the Federal grant funds equal to 5%. The total package requested is \$17,094.00 and if fully funded would result in \$16,280.00 grant funding from FEMA and require a match from the city of \$814.00. The Fire Department will absorb this match requirement within the existing operating budget for FY 2024-25.

ALTERNATIVES

The Council could decide not to pursue the grant monies. This is not recommended as fire service grant opportunities are limited and the grant funds would only serve to enhance the City's safety and resilience while increasing fiscal sustainability for the City.