



Council Agenda Report

Item 6k

Department: Fire
Cost Center: 8502
For Agenda of: 7/20/2021
Placement: Consent
Estimated Time: N/A

FROM: Keith Aggson, Fire Chief
Prepared By: James Blattler, Senior Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR THE CALIFORNIA FIRE FOUNDATION WILDFIRE SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS GRANT

RECOMMENDATION

1. Authorize the Fire Department to apply to the California Fire Foundation Wildfire Safety & Preparedness Grant Program for a grant in the amount of \$13,711 to purchase Personal Protective Equipment coats for wildland firefighting; and
2. Authorize the City Manager, or 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.

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 Fire Department: the California Fire Foundation's Wildfire Safety & Preparedness Program.

Background

Created in 1987, the California Fire Foundation (CFF), a statewide nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, provides public safety prevention education initiatives, emotional and financial assistance to families of fallen firefighters, firefighters, and the communities they protect. CFF's mandate includes an array of programs that honor fallen firefighters and provide survivor and victim assistance, as well as public safety education initiatives aimed at preventing injuries and death from preventable safety hazards.

As weather heats up across California and increases wildfire risk, the state is bracing for a long, hot summer exacerbated by severe drought conditions. Programs or projects that focus on supporting wildfire prevention or relief efforts aimed at protecting and enhancing the public's safety and/or the safety of California's firefighters and other first responders, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), are prioritized in this program.

Adequate PPE is essential in allowing the Fire Department personnel to directly and aggressively fight wildland and urban fires to protect homes and the community. Additionally, the receipt of the grant will provide the Department with a strong message to the community that wildfire preparedness is a top priority. As part of the grant project, staff will promote receipt of the CFF's grant to help encourage community wildfire preparedness.

The City's grant application will request funding for the purchase of new coats for wildland firefighting to help maintain adequate PPE levels for all emergency response personnel.

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 delegates receipt and contract execution to the City Manager.

Public Engagement

This item is on the agenda for the July 20, 2021, 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.

FISCAL IMPACT

Budgeted: No

Budget Year: 2021-22

Funding Identified: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	Total Budget Available	Current Funding Request	Remaining Balance	Annual Ongoing Cost
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other:	\$13,711	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$13,711	\$0	\$	\$0

The California Fire Foundation Wildfire Safety & Preparedness Grant Program does not require any City matching funds. If the project is not fully funded by the CFF, the department will look to absorb the remaining project costs within the approved annual operating budget for fiscal year 2021-22.

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 effectiveness of the Fire Department while increasing fiscal sustainability for the City.