



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting June 11, 2024

DATE: June 11, 2024

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager

FROM: Brandon Wade, Fire Chief
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Authorization to submit a grant application to the Office of the Governor - Homeland Security Grant Division by the Corpus Christi Fire Department

CAPTION:

Resolution authorizing the submission of an application to the Office of the Governor – Homeland Security Grants Division in an amount of \$42,123.95 for the Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure Program to purchase 20 new very high frequency radios to establish interoperable communication throughout the region and state for the Corpus Christi Fire Department.

SUMMARY:

This resolution authorizes the Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD) to submit a grant application for funding under the Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure Program in the amount of \$42,123.95 for 20 new very high frequency radios. The Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure Program falls under the Office of the Governor, Homeland Security Grant Division. The grant funds will be used to support CCFD's response capabilities by minimizing communication gaps while providing mutual aid.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

Since 2002, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has issued grants to the State of Texas, who in turn awards the grants to municipalities through the State Homeland Security Program. The State Homeland Security Program issues grants annually for projects that support state and regional efforts to improve or sustain interoperable emergency radio infrastructure and communication efforts while responding to potential acts of terrorism and catastrophic events.

CCFD is requesting funding for 20 new very high frequency (VHF) radios that will enhance interoperable communication with other agencies across Texas in the state of an emergency. CCFD currently borrows VHF Radios from the Coastal Bend Regional Advisory Council (CBRAC) to communicate efficiently when CCFD crews are deployed around the state. CCFD also borrows the VHF radios from CBRAC when an emergency in our area occurs and it entails emergency responses from other regional departments, such as with brush fires.

The 20 VHF radios will be assigned to Fire Stations #1 (514 Belden 78401), #11 (910 Airline Rd. 78412), #17 (6869 Yorktown 78414), and #18 (6226 Ayers St. 78415). CCFD crews will regularly use the VHF radios to communicate with outside agencies that assist CCFD with emergencies. Fire Station #1 will also use the VHF radios for the AMBUS and for wildland firefighting. The VHF radios will also be assigned to CCFD teams and personnel that are sent on deployments.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is not to submit the grant application and find other funding sources for the critical equipment for the department. However, this delay would put the City and its residents at increased risk during a state of emergency. If the funding is not awarded through this grant, the City will need to identify alternate funding in order to purchase the equipment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact for the application process. However, if awarded, grant funding will be appropriated in FY 2024 Fire Grants Fund.

Funding Detail:

Fund:	N/A
Organization/Activity:	N/A
Department Number:	N/A
Project # (CIP Only) :	N/A
Account:	N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends authorizing the Corpus Christi Fire Department to submit the grant application, as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Agenda Memo
Resolution