



SAFER Grant

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The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) was created to provide funding directly to fire departments to help them increase or maintain the number of trained, "front line" firefighters.

The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response, and operational standards established by the NFPA (NFPA 1710).

NFPA 1710 standard sets minimum criteria for the staffing of firefighter crews, and how they will respond and operate at emergency scenes.

NFPA 1710 Requirements

Fire Fighters will respond with a minimum of 4 personnel on each apparatus.

Fire Fighters will arrive at the emergency scene within 4 minutes of the dispatch center receiving the call.

The correct number of fully staffed and strategically located fire stations must exist to accomplish the standard.

SAFER

The Corpus Christi Fire Department was awarded the SAFER previously in 2013.

The SAFER Grant period is currently open, and application is due July 3rd.

The purpose of applying for this grant is to help the CCFD complete the goal of 4-person staffing on all frontline fire companies within 5 years.

Currently have only 8 of 22 fire companies staffed with 4 people.

14 units have only 3 people. It takes a staffing factor of 4.16 people to fill each position accordingly. A total of 86 additional people are needed to fulfill 4-person staffing.

Staffing

If CCFD hires an additional 15 Fire Fighters this year and 18 Fire Fighters yearly above attrition for the following 4 years, it would be June 2031 when 4-person staffing would be accomplished.

The current authorized complement for CCFD is 455 uniformed personnel, and 541 are needed to fully staff the department with 4-person staffing.

SAFER Award

The grant request is for \$4,004,254.53

If awarded, grant funds will be appropriated in FY 2026 Fire Grants Fund. There is a City cash match required as part of this grant. The cash match is 25% in the first and second years and a 65% match in the third year, totaling \$1,612,424.60. To retain all added grant-funded uniformed positions, it will cost the City \$1,209,146.22 to fully fund them in FY 2029 (9 Months).

The SAFER Grant will cover 75% of the costs in the first and second years and 35% in the third year.

Award notifications will be sent out August 18, 2025, through September 30, 2025.

If awarded the Grant, we would hire 15 personnel in January 2026.

SAFER Award

As has been discussed at previous City Council meetings, there is an option for a \$0.02 increase to the City property tax rate if capacity allows.

This increase would generate an estimated \$3 Million to the General Fund.

If recommended by the City Manager and approved by the City Council, The estimated \$3 Million will be proposed to fund additional uniform positions:

- \$1.5 Million for the Police Department
- \$1.5 Million for the Fire Department

If the City Manager does not recommend the increase or if the City Council does not approve it, then the City will not be able to participate in the SAFER grant.

Costs

Calendar/Grant Year						Actual City Cost w Tuition/Supplies
Cost per year for Grant		AFG %	AFG Cover	City Grant Cost	City %	
Year 1 1/26-1/27	\$1,132,030.80	75%	\$849,023.10	\$283,007.70	25%	\$566,605.50
Year 2 1/27-1/28	\$1,343,821.30	75%	\$1,007,865.97	\$335,955.32	25%	\$335,955.32
Year 3 1/28-1/29	\$1,528,402.43	35%	\$534,940.85	\$993,461.58	65%	\$993,461.58
Total Grant costs:	\$4,004,254.53		\$2,391,829.92	\$1,612,424.60		\$1,896,022.40
Year 4 1/29-9/30 (9 Months)	\$1,209,146.22	0%	\$0.00	\$1,209,146.22	100%	\$1,209,146.22
Total costs:	\$5,213,400.75		\$2,391,829.92	\$2,821,570.82		\$3,105,168.62

Costs

Fiscal Year						Actual City Cost w Tuition/Supplies
Cost per Fiscal year for Grant		%	AFG Cover	City Cost	City %	
FY1 (FY26) -1/5/26-9/30/26	\$842,130.00	75%	\$631,597.50	\$210,532.50	25%	\$494,130.30
FY2 (FY27) -10/1/26-9/30/27	\$1,265,182.52	75%	\$948,886.89	\$316,295.63	25%	\$316,295.63
FY3 (FY28) -10/1/27-1/5/28	\$368,539.58	75%	\$276,404.69	\$92,134.89	25%	\$92,134.89
FY3 (FY28) -1/5/28-9/30/28	\$1,136,465.37	35%	\$397,762.88	\$738,702.49	65%	\$738,702.49
FY4 (FY29) -10/1/28-1/5/29	\$391,937.06	35%	\$137,177.97	\$254,759.09	65%	\$254,759.09
Total Grant costs:	\$4,004,254.53		\$2,391,829.93	\$1,612,424.60		\$1,896,022.40
FY4 (FY29) -1/5/29-9/30/29	\$1,209,146.22	0%	\$0.00	\$1,209,146.22	100%	\$1,209,146.22
Total costs:	\$5,213,400.75		\$2,391,829.93	\$2,821,570.82		\$3,105,168.62