



## AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting November 28, 2023  
Action Item for the City Council Meeting December 05, 2023

**DATE:** November 28, 2023  
**TO:** Peter Zanoni, City Manager  
**FROM:** Brandon Wade, Fire Chief  
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**Acceptance of a grant totaling \$44,696.90 from the Port of Corpus Christi Authority for incident command training and equipment for the Corpus Christi Fire Department**

### **CAPTION:**

Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of a grant totaling \$44,696.90 from the Port of Corpus Christi Authority for the Port of Corpus Christi Community Grant for incident command training for 40 emergency personnel and training equipment for the Corpus Christi Fire Department; and appropriating \$44,696.90 in the FY 2024 Fire Grants Fund.

### **SUMMARY:**

This resolution authorizes the acceptance and appropriation of a grant totaling \$44,696.90 from the Port of Corpus Christi Authority Community Grant. The grant funding is for Blue Card Incident Command Training for Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD) firefighters and regional Emergency District personnel.

### **BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS**

The Port of Corpus Christi offers its Community Grant on a bi-annual basis (April & October). The grant is awarded locally to non-profits, charitable organizations, and emergency organizations. Its purpose is to enhance the general prosperity, development, prevention, and safety within the community. Funding will provide financial assistance for critically needed resources to equip and train CCFD emergency personnel.

The funds will be used to provide incident command training and necessary equipment for CCFD and regional emergency personnel. The CCFD uses the Blue Card training program for the incident command training. The Blue Card training program provides fire departments with a training and certification system that defines the best Standard "Command Practices" for common, everyday strategic and tactical emergency operations conducted. The training is based on the National Incident Management System's (NIMS) nationally recognized standards. NIMS guides all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work together to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from incidents. This training and certification program produces Incident Commanders who make better decisions that will potentially eliminate the lethal and/or costly mistakes that cause injury, death, and unnecessary

fire losses in the local response area.

The program will train and qualify 40 CCFD and regional emergency personnel to become Incident Commanders with better decision making to help eliminate mistakes during incidents that cause injury, death, and unnecessary fire losses. Approximately half of the 40 regional emergency personnel will be CCFD firefighters. The remainder will be emergency response personnel that CCFD regularly works with and that serve crucial roles in regional emergency responses. The personnel include the Emergency Services Districts, Robstown, Portland, and Port Aransas. Currently, CCFD has 223 personnel with Blue Card certifications.

The initial portion of the training is done online, and it takes approximately 50 hours to complete. After the online portion is completed, the trainees attend a three-day simulation lab which is held at the CCFD Training Division's training center. For the simulation, each trainee must successfully serve as the Incident Commander (IC) in a fast attack position and a strategic command position for each of five different building types to become certified. CCFD plans to begin the online training during the second quarter of FY 2024, subject to the award of the grant. The grant funds will also be used for training equipment including two-way radios with chargers, an iPad case for 10 iPads with a charging station, a case for radios and other equipment, and command boards.

The Port of Corpus Christi Community Grant was started in 2015; however, this is the first time that CCFD has applied for the grant. CCFD expects to receive the grant funds from the Port of Corpus Christi before the end of 2023.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The alternative is to not accept the grant and seek alternative funding for the critical equipment and Incident Command training. However, the FY 2024 General Fund Budget does not have funds dedicated for this training.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Acceptance of the funding in the amount of \$44,696.90 and appropriating \$44,696.90 to the FY 2024 Fire Grants fund.

**Funding Detail:**

Fund: 1062 Fire Grants  
Organization/Activity: 840034L  
Department Number: 10 Fire Department  
Project # (CIP Only): N/A  
Account: 520090 Minor Tools & Equipment  
530350 Training  
Amount: \$44,696.90

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance to accept and appropriate a grant totaling \$44,696.90 for incident command training and equipment, as presented.

**LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

Ordinance