



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting December 6, 2022
Second Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting December 20, 2022

DATE: December 6, 2022
TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
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Acceptance of a grant for \$415,806 from Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program
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CAPTION:

Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$415,806.00 from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, for incident command training, water rescue training, and purchasing personal protective equipment for the Corpus Christi Fire Department's technical rescue program, with a City cash match of \$37,800.55; and appropriating \$415,806.00 in the Fire Grants Fund.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance and appropriation of one grant from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, totaling \$415,806 including a City cash match of \$37,800.55. The grant funds will help to enhance the safety of both the public and Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD) firefighters by providing essential incident command training, water rescue training, and personal protective equipment for CCFDs technical rescue program.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant program is a federal grant program that is available annually to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The grant provides direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments for critically needed resources that equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards. Additionally, this program helps fire departments enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience. The City of Corpus Christi applied in March of 2022.

The grant funds will be used to provide incident command training and water rescue training for CCFD. The Incident Command Training will be provided through the Blue Card training program for \$402,306. Training is comprised of two sections. The first is online and consists of individual course work. The second is done in a laboratory setting intended to simulate scenarios and incidents to provide "real life" reinforcement of the program. Incident Command training is designed to instruct and train Fire Dept. personnel who serve in the role of Incident Commander that supervise and manage emergency and hazard zone operations. The "Blue Card" training program provides Fire Departments with a training and certification system that defines the best

Standard Command Practices for common, local, everyday Strategic and Tactical emergency operations. This training and certification program produces Incident Commanders that make better decisions that will potentially eliminate the lethal and/or costly mistakes that cause injury, death, and unnecessary fire losses.

The Blue Card Incident Commander training and certification program is based on Chief Alan Brunacini's textbook "Fire Command," which is considered one of the best practices for local incident command and Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health management. It is endorsed by the following entities:

1. International Association of Fire Chiefs Safety, Health, and Survival Section
2. Center for Public Excellence
3. International Society of Fire Service Instructors
4. Fire Department Safety Officers Association
5. Texas Fire Chiefs Association

The Blue Card program will help firefighters become incident commanders who will be able to make critical decisions at an emergency scene allowing for an efficient and safe operation. The goal is to train any firefighter eligible to serve in an incident command role. Battalion Chiefs, Captains and Firefighter II's eligible to act as a Captain are targeted for this training. The funding will allow 222 firefighters to attend the Blue Card Training program and become certified as a Blue Card Incident Commanders. Currently, CCFD has 85 firefighters that are fully certified as Blue Card Incident Commanders.

The grant funds also will be used to train and certify 18 firefighters for \$5,400 on bay and surf rescues and for the purchase of 18 dry suits for \$8,100 for the water rescue program. The dry suits will greatly enhance the firefighters' safety and protection from hypothermia during cold weather water rescues. Currently, CCFD does not have any dry suits for cold weather rescues. Currently, CCFD has 18 firefighters trained and certified in boat rescue. This course will provide boat, bay and surf rescue training to the 18 firefighters. CCFD utilized previous grants to begin acquiring equipment and training specific to water and surf rescue needs. This is the next phase of building the project which has identified those firefighters not yet trained to this level of water rescue.

The last time that the City received this grant was in 2017. The amount of the 2017 award was \$314,361.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is not to accept this grant, but instead find other funding through the City's General Fund in order to fund the Blue Card incident command training, water rescue training, and 18 dry suits utilized for cold water rescue.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Acceptance of funds in the amount of \$415,806 with a City cash match of \$37,800.55 and appropriating \$415,806 to the FY 2023 Fire Grants Fund.

Funding Detail:

Fund: 1020 General Fund
Organization/Activity: 12000 Fire Administration
Mission Element: 093 Emergency Calls
Project # (CIP Only): N/A
Account: 530000 Professional Services
Amount: \$37,800.55

Fund: 1062 Fire Grants
Organization/Activity: 821270F
Mission Element: 888 Revenue
Project # (CIP Only): N/A
Account: 340000 Contributions & Donations
Amount: \$415,806

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that City Council authorize the ordinance to accept and appropriate the grant funds in the amount of \$415,806, as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance