



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting of July 31, 2012

DATE: 7/18/12
TO: Ronald L. Olson, City Manager
FROM: Robert Rocha, Fire Chief
rrocha@cctexas.com
(361) 826-3932

Application for a Department of Homeland Security-Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant.

CAPTION:

Resolution authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to submit a grant application in the amount of \$3,380,824 to the United States Department of Homeland Security – Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants Program to hire 34 firefighters within the Fire Department and authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate the grant.

PURPOSE:

Currently, the Fire Department has 34 positions vacant through attrition. The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants Program is a competitive grant program designed to provide financial assistance to help fire departments increase frontline firefighters, rehire firefighters that have been laid off, retain firefighters facing imminent layoffs, or fill positions that were vacated through attrition.

- The SAFER grant will provide 100% funding for approved entry-level salaries and fringe benefits of full-time firefighters for 24 months of grant funding.
- There is no local match required for the SAFER Grant; however grant funding requests must be based on the current full-time entry level salary and fringe benefits package for a firefighter.
- Grantees under the SAFER Grant who layoff any firefighters during the two-year period of performance will be considered in default of their grant and the award will be terminated.
- Grantees under the SAFER Grant must agree to maintain the funded positions as well as the number of positions declared at the time of the award throughout the two-year period of performance unless the grantee has been afforded a waiver of this requirement.
- This grant will not add more positions to the department's current approved staffing level.

ALTERNATIVES:

If we don't apply for the grant, we will have to fund current vacancies through the City's General Fund.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

None

CONFORMITY TO CITY POLICY:

Council approval of Resolution to submit grant application.

EMERGENCY / NON-EMERGENCY:

Staff is requesting an emergency reading. According to Article II, Section 14 of the City Charter, an item can be classified as an emergency because it calls for "immediate action necessary for the efficient and effective administration of the city's affairs". This is a routine, non-controversial item.)

DEPARTMENTAL CLEARANCES:

Legal
Finance – Federal Grants and Office of Management and Budget

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Not applicable

Operating Revenue Capital Not applicable

Fiscal Year: 2011-2012	Project to Date Expenditures (CIP only)	Current Year	Future Years	TOTALS
Line Item Budget				
Encumbered / Expended Amount				
This item				
BALANCE				

Fund(s):

Comments: After two years the City will have to pick up the salaries and fringe benefits of the 34 firefighters.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this agenda item.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Grant Application
Resolution

Approvals: Joseph Brice, Assistant City Attorney
Constance P. Sanchez, Director of Finance Services
Eddie Houlihan, Assistant Director of Management and Budget
Troy Riggs, Assistant City Manager