



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting April 9, 2024

DATE: April 9, 2024
TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager
FROM: Brandon Wade, Fire Chief
brandonw@cctexas.com
(361) 826-3900

Application to the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant for the Corpus Christi Fire Department

CAPTION:

Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application for the FY 2023 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant in the amount of \$16,359,579.25 from the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency for salaries and benefits over a three-year period for 78 additional firefighters that would potentially be added over two years for the Corpus Christi Fire Department for our four-person staffing plan.

SUMMARY:

This resolution authorizes the submission of a grant application for the FY 2023 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant in the amount of \$16,359,579.25 from the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). If awarded, the grant funds will provide funding salaries and benefits for 78 additional firefighters over the next three fiscal years.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The SAFER grant program provides funding directly to fire departments to assist in increasing the number of firefighters. The goal of the SAFER grant program is to help communities meet industry minimum standards, attain 24-hour staffing to provide adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards, and to fulfill the overall missions of fire departments. Additionally, the SAFER grant program seeks to help fire departments enhance their abilities to comply with staffing, response, and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA). NFPA sets minimum criteria for the staffing of firefighter crews, and how they will respond and operate at emergency scenes. The NFPA's criteria state that fire departments will respond with a minimum of four personnel on each apparatus and that they will arrive at the emergency scene within four minutes of the dispatch center receiving an emergency call.

The City's goal is to achieve four-person for all of its frontline fire companies. Currently, the City is working toward achieving this goal over the next five fiscal years. The City's purpose for

applying for this grant is to shorten the timeframe it will take for CCFD to complete its goal of four-person staffing on all frontline fire companies. CCFD currently has only eight of 22 fire companies with four-person staffing. In order to complete four-person staffing for all 22 fire companies, CCFD requires a total of 78 additional uniformed positions. The current authorized complement for CCFD is 455 uniformed positions. If approved, the additional 78 uniformed positions will increase the authorized complement to 533 uniformed positions.

Without this grant, it will take CCFD until FY 2030 to achieve four-person staffing for all 22 fire companies. This would be accomplished by City Council approving the addition of 16 uniformed personnel above the average CCFD attrition rate (average attrition rate is 20 uniformed personnel per year) each fiscal year over the next five fiscal years. However, if the SAFER grant is awarded, CCFD would hire 78 uniformed positions above the average attrition over the next two fiscal years, which would accomplish the goal of four-person staffing for all 22 fire companies by June 2027. If this grant is awarded, it will fully pay for the salaries and benefits of 78 additional uniformed positions for the next three fiscal years. If awarded this grant, CCFD plans to hire the first 40 of the additional 78 uniformed positions in the first year of the grant (FY 2025). The grant funds will be awarded on a calendar year basis.

Listed in the table below is the funding covered by the SAFER grant as well as the cost to the City per year.

Fiscal Year	Cost per Fiscal Year	SAFER Grant (1/6/25-1/6/28)	City Cost
FY 2025	\$2,143,084.31	\$2,143,084.31	\$0*
FY 2026	\$5,284,006.57	\$5,284,006.57	\$0*
FY 2027	\$7,004,799.76	\$7,004,799.76	\$0
FY 2028	\$7,941,561.17	\$1,927,688.61	\$6,013,872.56
FY 2029	\$8,540,757.55	\$0	\$8,540,757.55
TOTAL	\$30,914,209.36	\$16,359,579.25	\$14,554,630.11

*City would be responsible for the cost of training, tuition, fees, personal protective equipment, and uniforms, which would be a total of \$1,381,821.13 over the first two fiscal years (FY 2025: \$713,198.00; FY 2026: \$668,623.13). If the SAFER grant is awarded, CCFD will submit a decision package as part of the Proposed FY 2025 Budget for training, tuition, fees, personal protective equipment, and uniforms.

This is the second time the City has applied for this grant. In 2013, the City received \$3,380,824.00 from this grant for funding for 34 additional uniformed positions in CCFD.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is not to submit the grant application and continue to move forward with adding 16 uniformed positions each fiscal year over the next five fiscal years to accomplish the City's four-person staffing plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

If awarded, grant funds will be appropriated in FY 2025 Fire Grants Fund. There is no City cash match required as part of this grant. However, to retain all added grant funded uniformed positions, it will cost the City \$8,540,757.55 to fully fund them in FY 2028.

If the SAFER grant is awarded to the City, CCFD will not request the additional 16 uniformed positions per fiscal year over the next three fiscal years. Instead, CCFD would work with the Office of Management and Budget to earmark equivalent funding over the next three fiscal years in preparation for funding 100% of the costs for the additional 78 uniformed positions beginning FY 2028.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Resolution