



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting March 22, 2022

DATE: March 22, 2022

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager

FROM: Robert Rocha, Fire Chief
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**Authorization to submit a grant application to the Department of Homeland Security,
Assistance to Firefighters Grant program by the Fire Department**

CAPTION:

Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application for \$415,806 to the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program for training and safety equipment with a City cash match of \$37,800.55.

SUMMARY:

This resolution authorizes the Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD) to submit a grant application for funding under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$415,806 with a City cash match of \$37,800.55 to the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency. The grant funds will help to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters by providing essential incident command training, water rescue training, and personal protective equipment for the CCFD's technical rescue program.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program is a federal grant that is offered annually to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments for critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience.

The grant funds will be used to provide incident command training and water rescue training for the CCFD. The department will use the Blue Card training program for the incident command training. The program will help firefighters become Incident Commanders who will be able to make critical choices that will potentially eliminate mistakes during incidents that cause injury, death, and unnecessary fire losses. Funding will allow 222 firefighters to become certified as a Blue Card Incident Commander. Out of 418 uniformed firefighters, currently there are only eight that are certified Blue Card Incident Commanders.

Funds also will be used to train and certify 18 firefighters on bay and surf rescues and purchase 18 dry suits for the rescue program. The dry suits will greatly enhance the firefighters' safety and protection from hypothermia during cold weather water rescues. Currently, the department does not have any dry suits for cold weather water rescues.

The last time the City of Corpus Christi applied for this grant was in 2016, and the City received a grant award for \$314,361 for FY 2017. The City has not applied for the grant since FY 2017 until now because the AFG requires matching funds which must be identified and assured prior to application. CCFD did not identify a specific need that fell within the grant's guidance since FY 2017 until this current application. During the period between FY 2017 and the current application, needs were funded by the CCFD's budget or other grant options (Homeland Security, Helping Heroes, CBRAC, and others).

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is not to submit the grant application and find other funding sources for the critical training and rescue equipment for the CCFD. This will prolong the time for CCFD to obtain dry suits and the training for its firefighters on bay and surf rescues and Blue Card Incident Commanders.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact for the application process. However, if the grant is awarded then grant monies will be appropriated in FY 2022 in the Fire Grants Fund.

Funding Detail:

Fund:	N/A
Organization/Activity:	N/A
Mission Element:	N/A
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A
Account:	N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends authorizing CCFD to submit the grant application, as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Agenda Memo
Resolution