



Las Vegas

Agenda Item No.: 39.

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: JULY 2, 2014

DEPARTMENT: FIRE AND RESCUE
DIRECTOR: WILLIAM L. MCDONALD

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:

Discussion for possible action regarding acceptance of a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant award of \$6,297,400 from the United States Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency Grant Programs Directorate for positions to allow staffing of Fire Station 108, located at 4555 East Bonanza Road, and the related augmentation in the Fiscal Year 2015 General Fund budget (General Fund, no matching contribution required) (Award & Coffin)

Fiscal Impact:

☐

No Impact

☐ Augmentation Required

☐

Budget Funds Available

Amount: \$3,087,000

Funding Source: General Fund

Dept./Division: Fire & Rescue

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

The City of Las Vegas, Department of Fire & Rescue requested, and was awarded, SAFER Grant funding in the amount of \$6,297,400 over a two year period to hire 20 firefighters to allow staffing for new Fire Station 108, which is scheduled to open in August 2015 to provide faster, safer, and more efficient emergency response services to the citizens and visitors of Las Vegas. Approval of the award acceptance and the associated budget augmentation will allow the City to proceed with the hiring of 20 positions (12 of which were previously authorized) within the timelines established by the grant. The grant will reimburse 100% of the salary and benefits costs of the new positions. Award and Augmentation Amounts: FY15-\$3,087,000, FY16-\$3,210,400 for a Total of \$6,297,400.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

1. SAFER Grant Application
2. SAFER Award Package

Motion made by BOB COFFIN to Approve

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

BOB COFFIN, RICKI Y. BARLOW, LOIS TARKANIAN, CAROLYN G. GOODMAN,
STEVEN D. ROSS, BOB BEERS; (Against-None); (Abstain-None); (Did Not Vote-None);
(Excused-STAVROS S. ANTHONY)

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Minutes:

FIRE CHIEF WILLIAM McDONALD, Las Vegas Fire and Rescue, said that they applied for the grant in September, 2013 and the purpose of the grant is to improve and restore fire department staffing so they can more effectively respond to emergencies. Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) is administered by and funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grant would be used to staff Fire Station 108 at 4555 East Bonanza Road, which is currently under construction and will be ready for occupancy in August, 2014. The station would be staffed with 20 firefighters and will serve the densely populated eastern neighborhoods and communities of Las Vegas. This is a high call volume area; Clark County Fire has been serving this area and with this grant, the imbalance of auto aid would be corrected. If the grant is accepted, the City will be reimbursed for the salary and benefits costs for staffing Fire Station 108.

The requirements to accept the grant are to acknowledge acceptance of the award within 30 days and it was awarded on June 6, 2014, and the new firefighters must be on staff within 90 days. There is an existing active firefighter recruit list and staff are going through the hiring process now; a lateral firefighter and a general firefighter paraprofessional have also been initiated because some of the Nevada firefighters will be laid off soon. Having some of the veteran firefighters will shorten the time to hire and get the firefighters in the field as well as reduce overtime costs and the impact to the organization. The recommendation is to accept the grant and add eight firefighters to the 2014-2015 Operating Budget.

FIRE CHIEF McDONALD mentioned said that if the City was to hire eligible military veterans, the grant would reimburse the City for three years instead of two years. Several letters were received in support of this application from State-elected officials and the Federal Delegation. FIRE CHIEF McDONALD thanked Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID for his personal involvement and work in Washington, D.C.

MAYOR GOODMAN asked if the City has to legally amend anything to add in the veteran's augmentation and FIRE CHIEF McDONALD replied that it is a part of the grant program and reiterated that if an eligible military veteran was hired, the City would be reimbursed for three years. CITY MANAGER FRETWELL explained for MAYOR GOODMAN that after the two or three year reimbursement period lapsed, the City would absorb the costs and they will have to be built into the 2016-2017 budget.

COUNCILMAN COFFIN did not realize the grant would be this big and is glad that it includes veterans. Having a fire station here was contemplated 14 years ago, opening it with an engine only, but this grant allows for the City to have 24 hour response seven days a week. He asked where the previously mentioned firefighters were going to be laid off and FIRE CHIEF McDONALD explained that the Reno Fire Department has notified 20 members of their department that they will be laid off effective July 1st of this year. Staff has been in communication with Reno, their Fire Chief, the Human Resources Department and their Union to see if there is an opportunity to absorb some of the firefighters in this station. FIRE CHIEF McDONALD reiterated that fully trained, veteran firefighters would be a benefit to the City.

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COUNCILMAN COFFIN mentioned that when going through the hiring process, it would be beneficial to have firefighters who speak the Latin languages fluently as the population is 65 percent Latino in that area.

MAYOR GOODMAN asked how the City makes notification of acceptance of the grant and FIRE CHIEF McDONALD said that CHRIS SPROULE, Business Analyst, worked on this application and if this is approved he will make that notification. MAYOR GOODMAN requested that CHIEF McDONALD receive the notification as well.

