



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Roger Edington, Assistant Chief, Fire/Administration Bureau, Tacoma Fire Department
James P. Duggan, Fire Chief, Tacoma Fire Department
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Amendment of SAFER Grant – September 9, 2014
DATE: August 11, 2014

SUMMARY:

The Fire Department (TFD) requests approval to amend the City's current Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant award to accept an additional \$575,380 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to pay salary and benefit costs of 5 firefighters for one additional year.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Strengthen and maintain a strong fiscal management position.
- Strengthen and support public safety, human services, public education, and diverse higher learning opportunities in Tacoma.

The proposed grant amendment enables TFD to retain current staffing while reducing the financial impact to the General Fund as General Fund revenues continue their recovery from the Great Recession.

BACKGROUND:

In February 2014, by Resolution No. 38841, the City Council authorized acceptance of a \$3,446,180 SAFER grant award from the DHS to pay the salary and benefits costs of 20 firefighters for two years. Without the grant, the positions would have remained vacant due to a prospective 2015–2016 budget shortfall. TFD has used the SAFER grant funding to help retain current operational staffing while General Fund revenues continue their recovery from the Great Recession. The SAFER grant program guidance included an optional competitive award of an additional year of grant funding for positions filled by military veterans for which TFD applied. In July 2014, TFD was notified it was eligible to receive an additional \$575,380 to fund an additional year of salary and benefits costs for 5 of the existing 20 firefighters making the revised total grant award \$4,021,560.

ISSUE:

The City is required to acknowledge acceptance of the grant amendment. The grant also includes a provision that states that grantees who lay off any firefighters during the period of the grant "will be considered in default of their grant and the award will be terminated."

ALTERNATIVES:

TFD hopes to use the additional grant funding as a further bridge to help retain current operational staffing while the City's General Fund revenues continue to recover during the next biennium. Alternatively, TFD could be subjected to further reduction of emergency response units, position eliminations, and potential layoffs of personnel.

RECOMMENDATION:

TFD recommends approval of the grant amendment and acceptance of the additional grant award.



FISCAL IMPACT: Please see below.

EXPENDITURES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
1090 Fire Misc Special Revenue	878000	Various	\$575,380
TOTAL			

* General Fund: Include Department

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
DHS SAFER Grant	878000	4331002	\$575,380
TOTAL			

POTENTIAL POSITION IMPACT:

POSITION TITLE	PERMANENT/ PROJECT TEMPORARY POSITION	FTE IMPACT	POSITION END DATE
(No Additional Positions)			
TOTAL			

This section should only be completed if a subsequent request will be made to increase or decrease the current position count.

FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: No financial impact to 2013–14 biennium.

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? No

IF EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE TO BE COVERED.

The additional Fire 1090 Fund grant revenue and expenses will be added to the proposed 2015–2016 budget.