




TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: James P. Duggan, Fire Chief 
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Accept Federal SAFER Grant for 12 Firefighters – August 22, 2017
DATE: August 10, 2017

SUMMARY:

The Fire Department (TFD) requests acceptance of a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant from the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the amount of \$2,163,101 to hire and employ 12 firefighters for a three-year period.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Ensure all Tacoma residents are valued and have access to resources to meet their needs.

The SAFER grant will be used to hire, train, and help pay for 12 additional firefighters to increase operational staffing.

BACKGROUND:

TFD submitted a SAFER grant application to DHS in the amount of \$2,163,101 for financial assistance to hire, train, and employ 12 additional firefighters for a three-year period. The application was approved for a grant award commencing January 24, 2018, but an earlier start date can be requested from FEMA. If accepted, the grant will pay approximately 62 percent of the estimated regular wage and benefit costs of the additional positions during the period. The grant requires that no layoffs of commissioned TFD personnel occur during the three-year performance period. The additional positions will be used to improve emergency response.

ISSUE:

Will TFD be approved to accept the SAFER grant to partially fund an additional 12 firefighters for a three-year period?

ALTERNATIVES:

The City could reject the grant award and choose not to proceed with hiring the additional firefighters, in which case the response areas that would have been served by additional staffing will continue to experience longer response times.

RECOMMENDATION:

TFD recommends acceptance of a SAFER grant from DHS in the amount of \$2,163,101 to hire and help pay for the regular personnel costs of 12 additional firefighters for a three-year period commencing January 24, 2018.



FISCAL IMPACT:

EXPENDITURES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
1090 Fire Misc Special Revenue	878000	Various	\$3,507,732
TOTAL			\$3,507,732

* General Fund: Include Department

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
1090 Fire Misc Special Revenue	878000	4331001	\$2,163,101
0010 Fire General Fund	Various	Various	\$1,344,631
TOTAL			\$3,507,732

POTENTIAL POSITION IMPACT:

POSITION TITLE	PERMANENT/ PROJECT TEMPORARY POSITION	FTE IMPACT	POSITION END DATE
Firefighter	Permanent	12.0	Permanent
TOTAL		12.0	

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: Assuming a January 2018 start date, the fiscal impact would be approximately \$876,933 to the 1090 Fund and \$292,317 to the General Fund.

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? No

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

The grant award is estimated to fund approximately 62 percent of the regular wage and benefit costs of the positions over the three-year term of the grant. Grant matching funds totaling \$1,344,631 would need to be added to Fire’s General Fund operating budget to fund the balance of personnel expenses during the period.