



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 *D*
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Acceptance of SAFER Grant (Proposed Council Date: February 11, 2014)
DATE: January 27, 2014

SUMMARY:

The Fire Department requests approval to accept a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant in the amount of \$3,446,180 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to pay salary and benefits costs of 20 firefighters for two years.

BACKGROUND:

The Fire Department submitted a grant application to the DHS for a SAFER grant to hire 20 firefighters to fill existing and pending vacancies. Without the grant funding, the positions were projected to remain vacant due to a prospective 2015–2016 General Fund budget shortfall. If accepted, the grant will reimburse the City for all non-overtime related wage and benefit costs for 20 firefighters for up to two years. The grant also includes a competitive opportunity to obtain funding for a third year for military veteran recruits.

ISSUE:

The City has thirty days from the date of award to acknowledge acceptance of the grant. Notice of the grant award was received Friday, January 24, 2014. 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:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

The Fire Department recommends acceptance of the SAFER grant award and authorization to commence a fire recruit academy in the late first quarter of 2014.



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	\$3,446,180
TOTAL			\$3,446,180

* General Fund: Include Department

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
DHS SAFER Grant	878000	4331001	\$3,446,180
TOTAL			\$3,446,180

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: The General Fund impacts to train a fire recruit academy were anticipated. The 1090 Fund grant revenues and personnel expenses were not budgeted.

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? See above.

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

The additional 1090 Fund grant revenue to be received and the personnel expenses to be incurred in 2014 are not budgeted. The budget for the 1090 Fund will need to be modified.