



City Council Agenda Item Summary Report

Meeting Date: 2-7-2023

Submitted by: Derek Briggs, Fire Chief

Consent	Discussion Only	Public Hearing	Action Item XX
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Item Title: The Forney Fire Department is seeking approval for application with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA), Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program.

Summary Statement

The Forney Fire Department is seeking approval for application with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA), Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program. The FEMA AFG primary objective is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments by providing critically needed resources that equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience.

The FEMA AFG is a cost sharing federal grant program. Applicant agencies serving a jurisdiction of more than 20,000 residents but not more than 1 million residents are responsible for providing non-federal funding in the amount of not less than 10% of the total grant amount awarded.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) develops consensus standards that are used to guide the design, construction, testing, use, and maintenance of many of the tools, equipment, and apparatus we use every day. These standards are generally updated every five years to account for needed changes due to technology, industry needs, safety, and a host of other influencing factors. We currently have a mixture of 2013 and 2018 standards compliant SCBA's. There were some very specific design changes between the 2013 and 2018 standards aimed at ensuring compatibility across all manufacturers. These changes will be maintained in future standards, but require retro-fitting previously compliant units, at significant costs. The majority of our fleet of SCBA's are 2013 edition units that are at, or near eight years old. We have eight new SCBA's that are 2018 complaint, but these units are not compatible with previous version SCBA's. This presents a huge challenge and safety issue for us on the fire ground when personnel will be wearing respiratory protection that cannot connect with other units present on the scene.

If approved by Council, and awarded by the FEMA AFG, the Forney Fire Department will use this grant opportunity to focus on updating our entire fleet of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA's) to the latest available version ensuring compatibility across not only our entire department, but also with our surrounding mutual-aid partner agencies who also have updated their SCBA's.