

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: ANTHONY GOSSNER, FIRE CHIEF
FIRE DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT: ANNA MCAULIFFE, RESEARCH AND PROGRAM COORDINATOR
GRANT APPLICATION TO THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY FOR FUNDING OF SELF CONTAINED
BREATHING APPARATUS EQUIPMENT

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Santa Rosa Fire Department (SRFD) that the Council, by resolution: 1) authorize staff to submit a grant application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) in the total amount of \$786,400 for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and associated equipment; 2) authorize the Fire Chief or his designee to accept the grant award and approve and execute all documents and agreements related to the grant, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney; and 3) authorize the Chief Financial Officer to appropriate funds into the project account by the amount of the grant award.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This item relates to City Council Goal # 6 – Commit to Making Santa Rosa a Healthy Community Where People Feel Safe to Live, Work and Play. This grant will provide funding to support emergency preparedness of residents and City staff. This grant will fund the purchase of SCBAs and associated equipment.

BACKGROUND

The SCBA is an integral part of a firefighter's safety equipment. SCBA devices are worn by firefighters to provide breathable air while firefighting to keep them safe from being exposed to carcinogens and products of combustion. SCBAs protect a firefighter's airway and allows him or her to breath in environments that are Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH). Some examples of IDLH environments are the superheated air encountered inside structure fires, the toxic or poisonous gases firefighters are exposed to at hazardous materials incidents or the deadly low levels of oxygen found in confined space rescue situations.

GRANT APPLICATION TO FEMA FOR FUNDING OF SCBA EQUIPMENT

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An SCBA unit includes a harness with regulators and gauges, a face mask and an air cylinder. Additional air cylinders are carried on apparatus to extend the working time of firefighters on larger incidents.

Due to a need to replace aging, expensive SCBA equipment for firefighting, SRFD is submitting an application for the 2016 FEMA AFG grant. The total submitted for the grant is \$786,400.

SRFD has budgeted funding to replace some of the old equipment, however, the account has not accrued enough funds uniformly to replace the units. The accrued funding will, however, cover the estimated 10% match typically required for a grant of this type and size.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

Not applicable.

ANALYSIS

SRFD has budgeted funds to replace the air cylinders for our SCBAs as they expire. The cylinders have a Department of Transportation (DOT) mandated life span of 15 years, at which time they are disposed of. In addition, funds are budgeted annually for the maintenance, repair, and testing of all SCBAs, air cylinders, and associated equipment. However, SRFD has not accrued sufficient funds to replace our aging SCBAs. Unlike air cylinders, the SCBAs do not have a specific life span but most of our equipment is nearly 14 years old and in worn condition. Additionally, the aging units no longer comply with current NFPA industry standards so the manufacturer has discontinued producing some of the replacement parts, making it impossible to keep the equipment updated.

Due to a need to replace aging, expensive SCBA units for firefighting, SRFD would like to submit an application for the 2016 FEMA grant. The total to be requested from FEMA is \$786,400. This total includes the following equipment: 112 SCBAs that include a face piece and two SCBA cylinders and eight additional SCBA face pieces that will provide enough to issue correctly sized face pieces to all personnel.

FISCAL IMPACT

If awarded this grant, SRFD will realize a savings of \$786,400 by not utilizing department budget appropriations to replace the current SCBAs and associated equipment. There are sufficient funds in the SRFD budget appropriations, appropriated over several years, to cover the estimated 10% matching funds of \$78,640 required for this grant.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution

CONTACT

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