

October 21, 2025

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



RONNIE R. VILLANUEVA
INTERIM FIRE CHIEF

October 6, 2025

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 25-060

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:  Ronnie R. Villanueva, Interim Fire Chief

SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF FY 2022 STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE
EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT AWARD EMW-2022-FF-
00502 – CF#17-1434-S6

FINAL ACTION:	☐ Approved	☐ Approved w/Corrections	☐ Withdrawn
	☐ Denied	☐ Received & Filed	☐ Other

SUMMARY

On September 15, 2023, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) received notification regarding its successful application for the FY 2022 Staffing for Adequate Fire Emergency Response (SAFER) grant, which has been approved for a total amount of \$7,752,582.48. The grant funding will enable the LAFD to hire additional personnel for staffing an Engine at FS 7 in Panorama City, as identified in the Standards of Cover. The grant performance period spans three years, from March 13, 2024, through March 12, 2027, during which the City has committed to hiring 12 new full-time sworn Firefighter positions. As per the grant conditions, there is no federal cost share, and the salaries and benefits of the new hires will be reimbursed up to the total grant amount of \$7,752,582.48.

The objective of the SAFER program is to augment the capacity of local fire departments to comply with the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) standards for staffing, response, and operations. SAFER grants are available to support local fire departments in enhancing their staffing and deployment capabilities for responding to emergencies, thereby ensuring that communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards.

The grant award for implementing an engine resource is incomplete as it does not account for crucial additional costs. These expenses include overtime pay for constant staffing, as well as incremental costs to hire three Fire Captain I and three Engineer authorities to meet the required staffing configuration. There are no anticipated training costs, but SAFER recruits will be included in a regularly scheduled training class.

The City Council authorized acceptance of the SAFER grant on October 20, 2023 (CF

17-1434-S6). Grant expenditures up to the end of FY 2024-25 amount up to \$2,649,542.78 which leaves \$5,103,039.70 to be spent in FY2025-26.

FISCAL IMPACT

The SAFER program has approved a grant of \$7,752,582.48 to hire 12 firefighters for the LAFD. The grant will cover all the costs of hiring the firefighters and be fully reimbursed without federal cost share. However, if there are any additional expenses beyond the grant amount, the City will be responsible for covering those expenses. The SAFER Grant will have a fiscal impact of approximately \$2,527,753.14 on the General Fund. This funding will cover the additional staffing costs for a Fire Engine. With the additional firefighters, the SAFER Grant will help in fulfilling the Standards of Cover in Panorama City. The grant will also provide for an Engine at FS 7, fully staffed by three Fire Captains I, three Engineers, and six Firefighters. The disbursements under the SAFER Grant will be based on actual salary and fringe benefit costs and reimbursed on a bi-weekly to monthly basis. The reimbursement will depend on payroll pay periods and FLSA periods throughout the three-year performance period.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:

1. Approve and transmit the Mayor and City Council for consideration and approval to:
 - a. Continue to spend up to the FY 2022 SAFER Grant amount total of \$5,103,039.70 in accordance with the grant award agreement, in addition to further City costs necessary to fully implement an Engine at FS 7;
 - b. Submit grant reimbursement requests during the grant award period of March 13, 2024 through March 12, 2027 to FEMA and deposit grant funds received into LAFD Grants Fund 335, Department 38, Account to be determined;
2. Authorize the Controller to:
 - a. Establish a grant receivable and appropriate up to \$5,103,039.70 to an appropriation account, number to be determined (TBD), in Fund 335/38 for the receipt and disbursement of the FY 2022 SAFER Grant funds;
 - b. Transfer appropriations, as needed, from Fund 335/38, account number TBD, to Fund 100/38, Account 001012, Salaries Sworn, or Account 1030, Sworn Bonuses, upon submission of proper documentation by LAFD, subject to approval of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), of direct costs incurred during the grant performance period; and,
 - c. Transfer FY 2022 SAFER Grant funds from Fund 335/38 to Fund 100/38, Revenue Source Code 5346, Reimbursement of Grant Related Costs, for fringe benefits and related costs upon submission of proper documentation by LAFD,

subject to CAO approval, of related costs incurred during the grant performance period;

3. Authorize the LAFD and Controller, based on LAFD submissions to the CAO of grant budget modifications approved by FEMA, to transfer funds, as needed, between Fund 335/38 and Fund 100/38 for implementation of the FY 2022 SAFER Grant; and,
4. Authorize LAFD to prepare Controller instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to CAO approval, and authorize the Controller to implement the instructions.

Board report prepared by Meritxell Capdet Karapetian, Management Analyst, Emergency Operations Bureau, Homeland Security Division.

