

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



RONNIE R. VILLANUEVA
INTERIM FIRE CHIEF

October 15, 2025

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 25-066

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: *RN* Ronnie R. Villanueva, Interim Fire Chief

SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF GRANT FUNDS FOR THE 2023 FEMA URBAN
SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
GRANT (C.F. 24-0641) IN FY 2025-26

FINAL ACTION:	☐ Approved ☐ Denied	☐ Approved w/Corrections Received & Filed	☐ Withdrawn ☐ Other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

On April 4, 1993, the Mayor and City Council authorized the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These actions established LAFD as a sponsoring agency and host of a FEMA Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force, California Task Force 1 (CA-TF1). Through the MOA, FEMA supports CA-TF1 annually using a Cooperative Agreement (C-122495) to fund the program. The Agreement supports an equipment cache, CA-TF1 member training, and full-time personnel to manage the cache and administrate CA-TF1's US&R program.

FEMA's ongoing method of supporting US&R Task Forces throughout the country is by funding Cooperative Agreement Grants to sponsoring agencies for necessary equipment, training, supplies, and program administration costs. On July 3, 2024, the Council accepted the 2023 FEMA Cooperative Agreement Grant (EMW-2023-CA-05382) in the amount of \$1,263,456 for a term of September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2026 (C.F. 24-0641). On September 2, 2025 the Council accepted the 2023 Cooperative Agreement Grant (EMW-2023-CA-05382) supplemental funding in the amount of \$145,372, bringing the total to \$1,408,828. The Grant does not require a cost-share match from the City.

The Agreement's funding mechanism uses a "draw-down" system with FY 2025-2026 LAFD General Fund Budget front-funding CA-TF1 expenditures, and LAFD accounts reimbursed by drawing down from the grant award. All grant mandated expenditures will be reimbursed from the FEMA US&R account in a timely, on-going basis, as expenditures are processed according to City procedures.

As of August 31, 2025, \$435,808 remained available for spending in FY 2025-26 to cover salaries, personnel training, contractual services, travel, supplies and purchase of necessary equipment for program operations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:

1. Approve and transmit the report to the Mayor for approval and authority to expend the 2023 FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Force Cooperative Agreement Grant funding for salaries, equipment, training, supplies, and program administration costs.

2. Request that the Mayor:

- (a) Authorize the Fire Chief, or his designee, to deposit the FEMA US&R grant funds received under this Cooperative Agreement into Fund 335, Department 38, Account 38023R;
- (b) Authorize the Controller, upon submission of proper documentation by the LAFD of direct staff costs incurred during the grant performance period, to transfer 2023 FEMA US&R grant funds from Fund 335, Account 38023R, to various Fund 100, Department 38 salary accounts as follows:
 - i. Account 001012 (Salaries Sworn)
 - ii. Account 001010 (Salaries General)
 - iii. Account 001090 (Overtime General)
 - iv. Account 001098 (Variable Staffing)
- (c) Authorize Controller, upon submission of proper documentation by the LAFD, to transfer 2023 FEMA US&R grant funds from Fund 335, Account 38023R to Fund 100, Department 38, Revenue Source 5346 (Reimbursement of Grant Related Costs) for fringe benefits.
- (d) Authorize the LAFD to prepare Controller instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to approval of the CAO; and request the Controller to implement the instructions.

FISCAL IMPACT

The FY 2025-26 Los Angeles Fire Department General Fund Budget will front-fund \$435,808 to enable continuation of the performance period of the 2023 FEMA Cooperative Agreement Grant through August 31, 2026. The City will receive full reimbursement from the Grant.

CONCLUSION

As the sponsoring agency of a US&R Task Force, CA-TF1, the LAFD receives annual grants to support, maintain, and enhance CA-TF1's readiness. The report recommendations are necessary to ensure appropriate accounting and financial

procedures are in place to allow the LAFD to expend the grant funds. This is a no match reimbursement grant of \$1,408,828 of which \$435,808 remains available for salaries, travel, expenses and equipment in FY2025-26.

Board report prepared by Victoria Rodriguez, Management Analyst, Emergency Operations Bureau.

