

November 6, 2018

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



RALPH M. TERRAZAS
FIRE CHIEF

October 22, 2018

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 18-122

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:  Ralph M. Terrazas, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: 2017 STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE
GRANT AWARD (C.F. 17-1434-S3)

FINAL ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

SUMMARY

On August 24, 2018, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) was notified that its application for the 2017 Staffing for Adequate Fire Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant was approved in the amount of \$4,620,082. Coupled with City matching funds, the LAFD will be able to hire additional personnel to staff Light Force 38 in Wilmington. The Grant performance period covers three years, from January 07, 2019 through January 06, 2022, during which the City would commit to hiring 21 new full-time sworn positions above the current staffing level of 2,846 positions. Under terms of the grant, FEMA reimburses the City on a cost share basis of 75% of expenditures in the first two years and 35% in the third year, for a maximum reimbursement of \$4,620,082. In compliance with Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 14.6 relative to grants requiring City matching funds, acceptance of the 2017 SAFER Grant was approved during the Council meeting of September 7, 2018.

The goal of SAFER is to enhance local Fire Departments' ability to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). SAFER grants are offered to support projects to hire new, additional Firefighters to improve staffing levels and are limited to fire suppression resources (Engines and Light Force Trucks only). In 2016, the LAFD was awarded \$15,468,782 to staff four new Engines in Echo Park, Lincoln Heights, Reseda and Mission Hills.

While the 2017 SAFER award of \$4,620,082 stipulates a City match of \$2,871,941 for a total grant award of \$7,492,023, that funding only takes into consideration FEMA-reimbursable costs which are limited to salaries and fringe benefits. Those costs alone amount to \$8,631,583 (Attachment A/Table 1) suggesting a Federal share of \$5,178,771 based on the overall cost share of 60% Federal/40% City targeted under

this program. Hence, the Federal share is underfunded by \$558,689 which becomes a General Fund cost.

Additional costs not factored into the grant award but which are necessary to fully implement a Light Force resource include constant staffing overtime (Attachment A/Table 2), and incremental costs to upgrade a total of nine Firefighter authorities to three each of Fire Captain II, Engineer and Apparatus Operator to fulfill the appropriate staffing mix (Attachment A/Table 3). There are no additional training costs inasmuch as the SAFER recruits would be absorbed into a regularly scheduled training class. Collectively, these costs amount to \$11,613,235 which, netting out the SAFER award of \$4,620,082, results in a General Fund impact of approximately \$6,993,153 over the performance period – a cost share ratio of 40% Federal/60% City. Table 4B of Attachment A provides a distribution of these costs by fiscal year through the grant term. The current year cost of approximately \$371,000 will be absorbed within the Department's budget. The projected cost of \$1.9 million for FY 19-20, along with personnel adjustments, will be requested in the Proposed Budget process currently underway. Substitute authorities may be needed to address any interim gaps.

During the three-year performance period, recipients must maintain a Staffing Maintenance Number comprised of operational staffing at the level that existed on the date of award and the number of awarded SAFER positions. Operational staffing is defined as all paid positions with a primary assignment of fire suppression in alignment with NFPA 1710/1720. The LAFD Staffing Maintenance Number over the three year performance period is as follows, with further detail in Attachment B:

Operational Staff:	2,846
SAFER Funded Firefighters:	<u>21</u>
TOTAL	2,867

FISCAL IMPACT

The SAFER Grant project cost is estimated at \$11.6 million with the Federal cost share of up to \$4.6 million (40%) and City cost share of approximately \$7.0 million (60%) through the grant performance period of January 7, 2019 through January 6, 2022. The SAFER Grant will provide financial assistance toward the restoration of a Light Force resource. Grant disbursements are on a reimbursement basis of actual salary and fringe benefits costs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:

1. Approve and transmit this report to the Mayor and City Council for consideration and approval;
2. Authorize the Fire Department to:
 - a. Spend up to the FY 17 SAFER Grant amount total of \$7,492,023 in accordance with the grant award agreement, in addition to further City costs necessary to fully implement a Light Force;

- b. Submit grant reimbursement requests to FEMA and deposit grant funds received into LAFD Grants Fund 335, Department 38;
3. Authorize the Controller to:
 - a. Establish a grant receivable and appropriate up to \$4,620,082 to an appropriation account, number to be determined (TBD), in Fund 335/38 for the receipt and disbursement of the FY 17 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 17 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;
4. Authorize resolution authority for 21 Firefighter III positions, Class Code 2112-3, for the period January 7, 2019 through June 30, 2019; subject to allocation by the Civil Service Commission;
5. Authorize LAFD to request the reallocation of nine Firefighters to Fire Captain, Engineer and Apparatus Operator;
6. Instruct LAFD, with assistance from the CAO, to report back to the Council for approval of any plans to modify the FY 17 SAFER Grant program to add resources or change the deployment of SAFER-funded position authorities;
7. 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 17 SAFER Grant; and,
8. 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 Emilio Rodriguez, Senior Management Analyst II,
Administrative Services Bureau.

Attachments

TABLE 1

SAFER Grants Award Eligible Expenditures for Cost Sharing to Hire 21 New Sworn Positions									
From	To	Year	Salaries	Fringe Benefits	Total	Federal Share		City Share	
01/07/19	01/06/20	1	\$ 1,498,601	\$ 885,599	\$ 2,384,200	75%	\$ 1,788,150	25%	\$ 596,050
01/07/20	01/06/21	2	1,717,022	1,293,070	\$ 3,010,092	75%	2,257,569	25%	752,523
01/07/21	01/06/22	3	1,845,481	1,391,811	\$ 3,237,292	35%	1,133,052	65%	2,104,240
Total			\$ 5,061,103	\$ 3,570,480	\$ 8,631,583	60%	\$ 5,178,771	40%	\$ 3,452,813

TABLE 2

Non-Eligible Expenditures for Cost Sharing to Restore 1 Light Force									
From	To	Year	Overtime, Constant Staffing*	Drill Tower	Total	Federal Share		City Share	
01/07/19	01/06/20	1	\$ 319,668	\$ -	\$ 319,668	0%	\$ -	100%	\$ 319,668
01/07/20	01/06/21	2	606,205	-	\$ 606,205	0%	-	100%	606,205
01/07/21	01/06/22	3	652,496	-	\$ 652,496	0%	-	100%	652,496
Total			\$ 1,578,370	\$ -	\$ 1,578,370	0%	\$ -	100%	\$ 1,578,370

TABLE 3

Non-Eligible Incremental Expenditures for Cost Sharing to Restore 1 Light Force									
From	To	Year	Salaries & Overtime	Fringe Benefits	Total	Federal Share		City Share	
01/07/19	01/06/20	1	\$ 197,287	\$ 65,091	\$ 262,378	0%	\$ -	100%	\$ 262,378
01/07/20	01/06/21	2	387,918	127,985	\$ 515,903	0%	-	100%	515,903
01/07/21	01/06/22	3	469,950	155,050	\$ 625,000	0%	-	100%	625,000
Total			\$ 1,055,155	\$ 348,127	\$ 1,403,281	0%	\$ -	100%	\$ 1,403,281

TABLE 4A

Total Est. Expenditures for 21 New SAFER Positions and to Restore 1 Light Force Adjusted for Federal Award									
From	To	Year	Total		Federal		City		
01/07/19	01/06/20	1	\$ 2,966,246		54%	\$ 1,595,243	46%	\$	1,371,003
01/07/20	01/06/21	2	4,132,200		49%	2,014,021	51%		2,118,179
01/07/21	01/06/22	3	4,514,789		22%	1,010,818	78%		3,503,971
Total			\$ 11,613,235		40%	\$ 4,620,082	60%	\$	6,993,153

TABLE 4B

Total Est. Expenditures for 21 New SAFER Positions and to Restore 1 Light Force Adjusted for Federal Award									
Fiscal Year			Total		Federal		City		
2018-19			\$ 1,007,151		63%	\$ 635,873	37%	\$	371,279
2019-20			3,801,460		49%	1,863,386	51%		1,938,074
2020-21			4,394,463		36%	1,586,110	64%		2,808,353
2021-22			2,410,161		22%	534,713	78%		1,875,448
Total			\$ 11,613,235		40%	\$ 4,620,082	60%	\$	6,993,153

*Note: Calculated for 18 positions for platoon-duty Light Force.

Fire Department Operational Staff
FY17 SAFER Grant Staffing Maintenance Number

Code	Title	Pre-SAFER Count	January 7, 2019 to June 6, 2019		June 7, 2019 to January 6, 2022	
			SAFER Hires	Staffing Maintenance Number	Restore 1 Light Force	Staffing Maintenance Number
2112	Firefighter (SAFER)	-	21	21	-	21
2112	Firefighter	1,733	-	1,733	(9)	1,724
2121	Apparatus Operator	137	-	137	3	140
2131	Engineer of Fire Dept	429	-	429	3	432
2142	Fire Captain	458	-	458	3	461
2152	Fire Battalion Chief	41	-	41	-	41
2166	Fire Assistant Chief	6	-	6	-	6
2176	Fire Deputy Chief	4	-	4	-	4
3563	Fire Helicopter Pilot	17	-	17	-	17
5125	Fireboat Mate	15	-	15	-	15
5127	Fireboat Pilot	6	-	6	-	6
Totals		2,846	21	2,867	-	2,867