



# LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

RALPH TERRAZAS  
FIRE CHIEF

September 1, 2020

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
FILE NO. 20-079

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: *RMT* Ralph M. Terrazas, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF FY 2020 FEMA URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE  
TASK FORCE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT GRANT

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 Withdrawn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 April 4, 1993, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was executed between the City, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), establishing the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) as a sponsoring agency of a FEMA Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force, California Task Force 1 (CA-TF1). An Amendment to the MOA was executed in 2011 (C.F. 10-2283-S1). Since 1993, the City has been awarded annual FEMA Cooperative Agreement grants to fund equipment, supplies, training, contractual services, and LAFD personnel to administer and manage the US&R CA-TF1 program.

The LAFD was awarded \$1,180,631 for the 2020 FEMA US&R program, with a period of performance from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2023. No matching funds are required, but the grant is on a reimbursement basis requiring the LAFD to front-fund expenditures. Following submission of appropriate supporting documentation, FEMA reimburses the City for those expenditures.

The expenditure plan is as follows:

### Personnel Costs:

- \$536,624 - (direct and indirect costs) to fund continuing resolution authorities for one Fire Captain I (C.F. 08-2490), one Management Analyst (C.F. 08-2490) and one Storekeeper II (C.F. 16-0600) to administer and manage the US&R program. Continued employment authority for these positions from July 1, 2020 through July 1, 2021 are included in the Personnel Authority Resolution (PAR) awaiting authorization by City Council (C.F. # to be determined, previous PAR authority C.F. 19-1700) in anticipation of continued grant funding. If FEMA grant funding for the US&R program continues in subsequent years, employment authority for these three positions will continue to be effected through the PAR.

Personnel Training Costs:

- \$130,650 - to fund back-fill of members assigned to specialized training on search and rescue activities in responding to emergency incidents.

Contractual Services/Expenses/Equipment:

- \$513,357 - to fund contracts for specialized personal services (Canine Specialists, Medical Team Managers, Structural Engineering Specialists, maintenance of medical supplies through a Pyxis machine and a Pharmacist), travel expenses, supplies and equipment for program operations.

Sole source service contracts will be executed with three Canine Search Specialists, eight Medical Team Managers, and eight Structural Engineering Specialists. The above service providers are currently contracted with the City under the 2017 FEMA grant. However, because grant funds from different years must be maintained separately, new agreements with these providers will be executed for the 2020 FEMA grant.

Due to the specialized nature of the work performed in responding to emergency incidents, sole source contracts have been approved by the City Attorney as set forth under City Charter Section 371(e)(2), which states that competitive bidding shall not apply to, "Contracts, as determined by the contracting authority, for the performance of professional, scientific, expert, technical, or other special services of a temporary and occasional character for which the contracting authority finds that competitive bidding is not practicable or advantageous."

It should be noted that while expenditures to these contractors related to the 2020 FEMA Cooperative Agreement grant will be within the funding allocations, each contract cites a maximum amount up to \$99,000. This higher limit is necessary because these contractors are also subject to deployment by FEMA to nationally declared disasters outside the City. Under these circumstances, the City would be reimbursed by FEMA through a federal funding source separate from the 2020 FEMA Cooperative Agreement grant.

A contract has been executed with Carefusion Solutions, LLC dba BD for a Pyxis medicine automated dispensing system, which will be monitored by the LAFD Pharmacist. The machine will provide a locked and secure storage for the CA-TF1 medical cache.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Board:

1. Approve and transmit the report to the Mayor and the Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO) for Committee and City Council consideration.

It is also recommended the Board request that the Mayor and City Council:

2. Accept the 2020 FEMA Cooperative Agreement Grant for the Urban Search and Rescue CA-TF1 in the amount of \$1,180,631 for the term of September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2023, and authorize the Fire Chief, or designee, to execute any documents or agreements necessary to accept the grant on the City's behalf.

3. Authorize the Fire Department to deposit 2020 FEMA grant funds received into Fund 335, Department 38, Account to be determined.
4. Authorize the Controller, for reimbursement purposes, to transfer 2020 FEMA grant funds from Fund 335, Department 38, Account to be determined, to various Fund 100, Department 38 salary accounts: Account 001012 (Salaries Sworn), Account 001010 (Salaries General), and Account 001098 (Variable Staffing), upon submission of proper documentation by the Fire Department of direct staff costs incurred during the grant performance period.
5. Authorize the Controller to transfer 2020 FEMA grant funds from Fund 335, Department 38 to Fund 100, Department 38, Revenue Source 5346 (Reimbursement of Grant Related Costs) for fringe benefits upon submission of proper documentation by the Fire Department of costs incurred during the grant performance period.
6. Find, in accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 4.133(a), that the following three positions will remain approved and authorized by Resolution as indicated in the Personnel Authority Resolution (PAR), for the grant period, and include the authority in future PARs:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Class Title</u>
1	2142-1	Fire Captain I
1	9184	Management Analyst
1	1825-2	Storekeeper II

7. Authorize the Controller to transfer \$513,357 from Fund 100, Department 38, Account 001012 (Salaries Sworn) to Fund 335, Department 38, Account to be determined, for the purchase of expense and equipment items, to be reimbursed by the FEMA grant during the period of September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2023, and any extensions granted by FEMA.
8. Authorize the Fire Department to prepare Controller instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to approval of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), and instruct the Controller to implement the instructions.
9. Based on Fire Department submissions to the City Administrative Officer of grant budget modifications approved by FEMA, authorize the Fire Department and Controller to transfer funds, as needed, between Fund 335, Department 38 and Fund 100, Department 38 for implementation of the 2020 FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Cooperative Agreement program through the end of the grant performance period.
10. Authorize the Fire Chief to negotiate and execute contracts with the following service providers, each not to exceed \$99,000 for the 2020 FEMA grant performance period:

Canine Search Specialist (three contracts)  
Deresa Kenney (Teller)

Jeffrey Neu  
To be determine

Medical Team Manager (eight contracts)

Dr. Francine Vogler  
Dr. Eric Ley  
Dr. Brian Wilbur  
Dr. Claudia Martinez  
Dr. Michael Port  
To be determined  
To be determined  
To be determined

Structural Engineering Specialist (eight contracts)

Neville Peirera  
Essam Lobnan  
Sean M. Hughes  
Dorian Sulc  
To be determined  
To be determined  
To be determined  
To be determined

11. Authorize the Fire Chief to negotiate and execute contracts for Pyxis medicine automated dispensing system and Pharmacist with the following service providers, not to exceed \$99,000 for the 2020 FEMA grant performance period:

Pyxis Vendor  
Carefusion Solutions, LLC dba BD

Pharmacist  
John Cassara, LAFD Pharmacist I

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no impact on the General Fund. The FEMA Urban Search and Rescue grant agreement does not require City matching funds. In accordance with grant guidelines, project funds are disbursed on a reimbursement basis.

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