

# LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



JUN 17 2008

DOUGLAS L. BARRY  
FIRE CHIEF



June 3, 2008

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
FILE NO. 08-086

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: Douglas L. Barry, Fire Chief *DLB*

SUBJECT: **GRANT APPLICATION -2008 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS  
GRANT PROGRAM (F.I.R.E. ACT)**

|                       |                                   |   |                                    |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| FOR INFORMATION ONLY: | <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 Withdrawn |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     |

## RECOMMENDATIONS

It is respectfully recommended that your Honorable Board:

1. Approve the attached Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program application to the Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, totaling \$386,000.
2. Authorize the Fire Chief to accept ODP grant funds for deposit into a new account in Fire Department Grant Fund 335 established specifically for this project if the grant is approved for funding; said approval may occur from City Fiscal Years 2008/09 through 2009/10.
3. Request the City Council to authorize the transfer of \$77,200 from Fund 100, Department 38, Salaries Sworn, Account 1012, to the Fire Department Grant Fund 335 established for this project for disbursement to ODP as the non-Federal 20 percent cash match if the grant is approved for funding; said request may occur from City Fiscal Year 2008/09.
4. Instruct the Commission Executive Assistant to forward this grant application to the Mayor and City Council for further processing in accordance with Division 14 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code.

## **SUMMARY**

In accordance with Division 14 of the Administrative Code, all grant applications are required to be forwarded to the Mayor and City Council for approval.

The attached Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (commonly known as the F.I.R.E. Act) application was electronically submitted to the Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP), U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), on April 4, 2008 to meet the required deadline.

The Department prepared the grant application in compliance with ODP guidelines in the Program Category of Operations and Firefighter Safety. The proposal totals \$386,000 (\$308,800 – Federal portion; \$77,200 – LAFD 20 percent cost-share) for the acquisition of 175 5-Gas Detectors, Calibration Stations and related training in the use of the gas detectors for all Fire Companies within the LAFD.

## **FINDINGS**

In Calendar Year 2000, Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act which was subsequently signed by the President. Included in the Act was the establishment of a Federal grant program for the nation's Fire Service, i.e., the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, widely known as the F.I.R.E. Act (Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement Act).

For Federal Fiscal Year 2008, Congress appropriated \$560 million for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program consisting of the Assistance to Firefighters Program (\$525 million) and the Fire Prevention and Safety Program (\$35 million); up to five percent of the \$560 million (\$28 million) was authorized for Grant Program administration. (The Fire Prevention and Safety Program will have a separate application period in the fall of 2008.) Award announcements for the Assistance to Firefighters Program are scheduled to begin as early as May 2008; the Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) has until September 30, 2009 to obligate the appropriated funds. Therefore, the availability of these funds overlaps City Fiscal Year 2008/09.

Review and input for the Grant narrative (Pages 10 through 12 of the attached application) was solicited from Hazardous Materials Subject Matter Experts from the LAFD. Based on previous experience with 3-gas detectors by our Hazardous Materials and Urban Search & Rescue Teams, the LAFD has identified the need for 5-gas detectors.

The 5-gas detectors will measure combustible gases and vapors as well as oxygen and harmful concentrations of carbon monoxide (CO), hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S), and hydrogen cyanide (HCN). This will allow for the detection and monitoring of these

gases during response to emergency incidents, including virtually all structure fires during the overhaul phase of operations.

As the current amount of limited units in the LAFD have reached obsolescence, the combined \$308,800 federal share and the \$77,200 LAFD cost share will enable the LAFD to fully implement the program department wide with state of the art technology.

### **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

The use of ODP grant funds will enable the Fire Department to increase the safety of our personnel through implementation of a department wide 5-gas detector program. If the Department is awarded the grant, a transfer of \$77,200 from Fund 100, Account 1012, Salaries Sworn, into Fire Department Grant Fund 335 would be required for disbursement to ODP as the non-Federal 20 percent cash match.

### **CONCLUSION**

The equipment acquisition, training and implementation of a department wide 5-gas detector program will increase the capabilities of the LAFD by establishing a higher level of safety benefiting not only the LAFD personnel, but other first responders (e.g. on-scene police personnel) and members of the public who may be in close proximity during emergency operations.

Board report prepared by Phil Orozco, Senior Management Analyst I, Administrative Services Bureau, Grants Management Unit.

Attachments