

November 6, 2012

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



BRIAN L. CUMMINGS
FIRE CHIEF

October 18, 2012

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 12-181

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners
FROM: Brian L. Cummings, Fire Chief
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL USAR DEPLOYMENT

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| 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 Withdrawn |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 |

For Information Only

This report provides a brief summary of the Los Angeles Fire Department's proposed Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) international rescue team application.

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The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) is seeking to become one of three international deployable urban search and rescue teams. OFDA awards grants for a term of five years for teams that are selected. The annual breakdown of the award is approximately \$614,000 per year and there is a supplemental award this year of \$255,000 for a total of approximately \$869,000. Additionally, the award is increased 2.5% annually.

There is an initial upfront cost of approximately \$2,000,000 to procure an international response cache. OFDA places \$1,000,000 in an account to be utilized to replenish the cache upon usage. OFDA replenishes the money in the account as it is used and invoiced. To facilitate the organization, record keeping, grants, training, and day-to-day operations, a Captain I, Management Analyst II, and a Warehouse Worker II would be required. Grant funding can be used to offset some of these costs.

Currently, the LAFD FEMA US&R team exceeds all the requirements for capability, training, and passports. The immunization requirements are very minimal and most LAFD US&R members meet the requirement. Additional immunizations may be response specific and may be given at the point of departure.

A facility to house the new cache can be addressed by one of two proposals. First, is the use of Prop "F" funds. This proposal has been on the drawing board for sometime and when monies become available a large facility is envisioned to house both the FEMA and OFDA caches. The timeline for this option is several years, and will not develop soon enough to house a new OFDA cache. The second option is to relocate the Wildland Fuel Management Unit and house the cache in the "B" building until such time that the Prop "F" grant monies become available.

The acceptance of the LAFD US&R team as an OFDA team would bring greater value to the City. Increased deployments and training will increase the knowledge and experience of LAFD members. This directly translates to improved LAFD performance at earthquakes and other large-scale events.

Board report prepared by Deputy Chief Mario D. Rueda, Emergency Services Bureau