



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
December 3, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Christine Daniel, City Manager

Submitted by: Gil Dong, Fire Chief

Subject: Revenue Grant: FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program to Fund Acquisition of a Transport Ambulance

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for and accept a grant, and any amendments, from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program in the amount of \$225,250 and authorizing the use of \$39,750 in local matching funds, to purchase one transport ambulance and equipment.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The total cost of the apparatus and equipment is estimated at \$265,000. Conditions for consideration include a matching contribution from non-federal funds or 15% or \$39,750 of the total cost. The match for this grant will be provided from the FY 2014 Vehicle Replacement Fund (860-5703-410-7042).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Department's three front line ambulances were purchased in 2008. The expected lifespan for an ambulance in our system is five years. These ambulances were the first generation of emergency response vehicles to have new federally mandated exhaust scrubbing technology installed which has been plagued with mechanical problems. The reserve ambulances are over ten years old and are reaching the end of their useful life.

The Fire Department has experienced a 28% call volume increase over 2005 call levels. The Fire Department is conducting data and cost benefit analysis to staff a fourth transport ambulance. The department staffs additional ambulances for the University of California football games and special events like the Berkeley half-marathon. The purchase of an additional ambulance will increase the department's ambulance fleet.

BACKGROUND

The Fire Department has been successful with AFG grant applications in the past. The department received grants in 2004 for fire risk assessment of the hazardous hill areas

and search and rescue training; 2005 for the replacement of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs); and in 2011 for the acquisition of a Type III Wildland engine.

The total amount of grants received through the AFG program is \$1,190,564. Through the AFG grant program, the City has replaced and updated critical response vehicles, equipment, and funded specialized training.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The AFG program is a welcomed funding opportunity given the City's fiscal constraints and if awarded the replacement vehicle will improve operational effectiveness. The acquisition of a new ambulance will support one of the core missions of the fire department; emergency medical response will provide great benefit to the Berkeley community and surrounding agencies.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

If the AFG grant is not awarded, the Fire Department will have to consider reallocating an alternate source of funding from the General Fund.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Gil Dong, Fire Chief, 981-5500

Attachment:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

REVENUE GRANT: FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM TO  
FUND ACQUISITION OF A TRANSPORT AMBULANCE

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley Fire Department has been the emergency transport provider agency for the City of Berkeley since 1977; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has opened up the application period for the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG); and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has an opportunity to apply for a FEMA AFG to receive matching funds for the purchase of an additional ambulance; and

WHEREAS, the need to purchase an additional ambulance is needed to address an increasing call volume; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Fire Department staffs an additional transport unit for University of California Berkeley football games and special events; and

WHEREAS, the existing fleet of ambulances is due for replacement; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to apply for and accept a grant from the Assistance to Firefighter Grant program in the amount of \$225,250, and authorizing the use of \$39,750 in local matching funds from Equipment Replacement (Fund 860) for the purchase of a paramedic unit transport and equipment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager may execute and amend a contract for the purchase of said ambulance and equipment.

