

MOTION

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) mission is to support United States citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards. In order to meet FEMA's mission, grant programs are offered to first responder agencies, such as the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER).

SAFER was created to provide funding directly to fire departments to help them increase or maintain the number of trained, "front line" firefighters available in their communities. The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The SAFER Grants are offered to support projects to hire new, additional firefighters to improve staffing levels.

The objective of the SAFER grant program is to assist local fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities in order to respond to emergencies, and assure that communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. Ultimately, SAFER recipients should achieve more efficient responses, thereby ensuring communities have improved protection from fire and fire-related hazards.

On September 15, 2023, the LAFD was notified that its application for the Fiscal Year 2022 SAFER grant was approved in the amount of \$7,752,582 (\$4,311,368.40 for salaries; \$3,441,214.08 for benefits) for the three year performance period of March 13, 2024 through March 12, 2027. FEMA has waived the cost share requirement for this grant award; however, the City is responsible for any costs that exceed grant funding.

This grant award will enable the LAFD to fund an additional 12 firefighter positions to staff a new engine company. Based on the current Firefighter III paygrade salary (MOU negotiations between the City and UFLAC are continuing), the projected costs for 12 firefighter positions for the three year performance period will total \$9,535,385.00 (\$6,824,424.00 for salaries; \$2,710,961.00 for benefits). Because the City must bear the costs exceeding grant funding, as noted above, the current projected fiscal impact to the General Fund is \$1,782,803.00 .

Given the substantial benefit to public safety that would be provided through the SAFER grant, it is necessary that Council authorize the LAFD to accept the grant award by no later than October 15, 2023 as required by FEMA.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council, subject to approval of the Mayor, authorize the Fire Chief, or her designee, to take all necessary actions to accept the 2022 SAFER grant.

PRESENTED BY: _____

Bob Blumenfield
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY: _____

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