

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

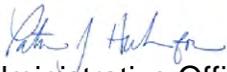
Date: November 15, 2022

CAO File No. 0100-00144-0347

Council File No. 21-1293

Council District: Various

To: The Mayor and Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer 

Reference: Transmittal from the Board of Fire Commissioners dated November 1, 2022.

Subject: **SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR THE 2021 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) GRANT AWARD FOR THE URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE – LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT**

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor:

1. Approve and authorize the Fire Chief, or designee, to accept supplemental funding in the amount of \$181,350 for a term from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2024 relative to the 2021 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Cooperative Agreement Grant for the Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force - California Task Force 1 (CA-TF1), and execute any documents or agreements necessary to accept the grant, subject to the approval by the City Attorney as to form;
2. Authorize the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to deposit the 2021 FEMA grant funds received under this cooperative agreement into Fund 335, Department 38, Account 38021R;
3. Authorize the Controller to transfer \$181,350 from Fund 100, Department 38, Account 001012 Salaries Sworn to Fund 335, Department 38, Account 38021R, for the purchase of expense and equipment items, to be reimbursed by the FEMA grant during the grant performance period and any extensions granted by FEMA;
4. Authorize the LAFD and Controller to transfer funds, as needed, between Fund 335, Department 38 and Fund 100, Department 38, based on the submissions to the City Administrative Officer (CAO) of grant budget modifications approved by FEMA, through the end of the grant performance period of August 31, 2024; and,
5. Authorize the LAFD to prepare Controller instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to the approval of the CAO, and authorize the Controller to implement the instructions.

SUMMARY

In accordance with Executive Directive No. 3, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) submits the proposed request to accept \$181,350 in additional funding relative to the 2021 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant award. The proposed funding will increase the total grant award from \$1,238,878 to \$1,420,228. The grant performance period will remain unchanged from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2024.

BACKGROUND

On April 4, 1993, the City entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with FEMA and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, to establish the LAFD as one of 28 participating agencies of the FEMA US&R Task Force (C.F. 92-2021-S1). Under the terms of the MOA, the LAFD is responsible for organizing and administering the Task Force to include recruiting and training, designating a Program Manager, maintaining capability for 24-hour activation, and complying with financial, administrative, reimbursement, and reporting requirements. As a participating agency, the LAFD receives funding from FEMA for the equipment, supplies, training, and salaries in support of the US&R CA-TF1 Team. Upon request by the State or Federal government, the LAFD will mobilize US&R CA-TF1 for the purpose of locating, extricating, and providing initial medical treatment to trapped victims of structural collapses at a designated disaster site. On August 12, 2011, the Council approved an amendment to the MOA (C.F. 10-2283-S1) reflecting the transfer of FEMA to the Department of Homeland Security and the publication of the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System regulations.

On May 20, 2022, the Council approved the Public Safety Committee report and Cooperative Agreement for the acceptance of the 2021 FEMA US&R grant award in the amount of \$1,238,878, for a three-year performance period beginning on September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2024 (C.F. 21-1293).

At its meeting on November 1, 2022, the Board of Fire Commissioners (Board) approved a LAFD report relative to the acceptance of additional grant funds from the FEMA in the amount of \$181,350 for the purchase of specific equipment, provided in a subsequent Program Directive from the FEMA Branch Office, in support of the City's Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force CA-TF1. As part of the Board's report, the LAFD is requesting to transfer funds from the Salaries Sworn Account to the 2021 FEMA Account to front-fund the cost of purchasing equipment, which will be reimbursed by the grant award following submission of proper documentation.

In accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code (LAAC) Section 14.6, the LAFD is required to transmit grant applications for Mayor and Council approval before accepting and receiving the grant award. In addition, Mayoral approval is required for any grant program amendments, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form (LAAC 14.8).

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval of the recommendations stated in this report will authorize the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to accept supplemental funding in the amount of \$181,350 for the purchase of equipment in support of the 2021 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Urban Search and Rescue Task Force, California Task Force 1 (CA-TF1) for a total grant award amount of \$1,420,228. The term of the cooperative agreement will remain unchanged from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2024. The LAFD will front-fund the costs for the purchase of the equipment, subject to reimbursement by FEMA upon submission of proper documentation. The FEMA grant does not require matching funds by the City. There is no additional impact to the General Fund.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The recommendations stated in this report comply with the City's Financial Policies in that all grant funds will be utilized to fund grant activities.

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