

**REPORT TO THE  
CITY COUNCIL**  
*City of Salinas, California*

DATE: September 9, 2014

FROM: Edmond A. Rodriguez, Fire Chief

BY: Jesse Piñon, Deputy Fire Chief

SUBJECT: **ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG)**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution accepting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) in the total amount of \$900,388 and authorize the purchase of the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). This grant is a three-participant, regional cost-sharing grant (90% Federal \$810,350 and 10% Local match of \$90,038 - FEMA counts both shares as the total project cost) between the City of Salinas, City of Seaside and the Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade. It is recommended that Fire Mitigation fees be utilized to fund the \$90,038 local match.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Salinas Fire Department is committed to enhancing firefighter safety, operational efficiency and fiscal responsibility through the pursuit of grants. The Fire Department's SCBA's are ten years old and near the manufacturer's recommended replacement age. The Salinas Fire Department's high fire call volume has pushed this recommendation to the limit. This grant will replace all Fire Department SCBA's currently in-service.

In an effort to improve the chances of obtaining this grant, the Fire Department pursued a regional grant between the City of Salinas (career fire department) City of Seaside (a combination career/reserve fire department) and Big Sur Fire Brigade (a volunteer fire agency) as regional grants tend to score more favorably.

This AFG will purchase 135 SCBA's (Salinas-80, Seaside-33 and Big Sur-22) and 17 Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) emergency rescue packs for rescuing down or trapped firefighters during firefighting operations (Salinas-11, Seaside-3, and Big Sur-3).

The Salinas Fire Department is the grant host agency and will coordinate the grant requirements utilizing the departments' grant administrator. The City of Salinas will purchase the SCBA's and RIC packs and pay the invoice utilizing FEMA's 90% (\$810,350)

and the City's 10% (\$90,038) funds. The 10% includes Seaside's and Big Sur's 10% local cost share; Seaside and Big Sur will be invoiced for their 10% based on the number of SCBA's and RIC packs received upon acceptance of this grant.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be signed by grant participants (Seaside and Big Sur) prior to distribution of SCBA's and RIC packs. The MOU will state participant responsibilities pursuant to AFG program guidelines.

In anticipation of an award of this grant, all three agencies formed a SCBA ad hoc workgroup to evaluate the various SCBA's available. The ad hoc workgroup unanimously selected the Scott SCBA brand based on performance, design, features available, and recommendations from the three fire agencies. The Fire Department will go out to bid for the best price possible to include City approved equal SCBA brands.

**ISSUE:**

Shall the City Council accept the Regional AFG for \$900,388, provide the 10% matching funds of \$90,038 from Fire Mitigation fees, authorize the purchase from City selected vendor, and authorize the City Manager to enter into the MOU with the other participating agencies?

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This is a cost-sharing grant based on the following breakdown:

Fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations serving populations of over 50,000 or more must match the Federal grant funds with an amount of non-Federal Funds equal to 10 percent of the total project cost.

NOTE: FEMA AFG guidelines count both shares as the total project cost.

The Fire Department recommends the 10% match (\$90,038 ) and the grant management fee be paid from Fire Mitigation fees; a grant management fee of 1.5% fee (\$8,100) of award is required to cover the department's grant writer service. There are sufficient funds in the Fire Mitigation account to pay the 10% match and grant management fee. Seaside and Big Sur will be invoiced for their 10% match to reimburse the City.

**TIME CONSIDERATIONS:**

There is a performance period (July 11, 2014 to July 11, 2015) of one year for this grant, all purchases and grant required documentation must be completed and closed out within 12 months.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Do not accept the AFG. This will place the burden of purchasing/replacing the required SCBA's solely on the City of Salinas, City of Seaside and Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade. The AFG will provide \$900,388 of SCBA's and RIC packs for a \$90,038 match. Staff does not recommend this alternative.

**CITY COUNCIL GOALS:**

Acceptance of this AFG award exemplifies and supports the following established City Council goals:

- Safe, Livable Community
- Effective, Sustainable Government
- Excellent Infrastructure
- Quality of Life

**CONCLUSION:**

The Salinas Fire Department has taken advantage of every grant opportunity available to enhance firefighter safety and minimize impacts to the General Fund. This grant will provide funding to purchase SCBA's and RIC packs that are in need of replacement. Staff recommends Council accept the AFG grant and authorize City Staff to fund the City's share of \$90,038 from Fire Mitigation fees.

Distribution  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
Department Directors

Attachments  
Attachment 1 - Resolution  
Attachment 2 - FEMA Award Package