

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

DATE: September 13, 2016

FROM: Edmond A. Rodriguez, Fire Chief

BY: Brett Loomis, Deputy Fire Chief

SUBJECT: **ACCEPTANCE OF ASSITANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS (AFG) GRANT FUNDS FROM THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND PURCHASE OF THERMAL
IMAGING CAMERAS FOR THE SALINAS FIRE DEPARTMENT**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize acceptance and appropriation of a grant award from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant program (#EMW-2015-FO-05457) for \$98,845 (\$89,860 federal funding and \$8,985 City matching funds); and
2. Authorize the purchase of 14 Bullard T4X Thermal Imaging Cameras from LN Curtis and Sons, Inc. for \$109,118.45.

DISCUSSION:

The current complement of thermal imaging cameras in the Salinas Fire Department have met or exceeded their service life. Though still in operation, these pieces of equipment are out of service frequently with costly repairs. These units are a mission critical piece of equipment for our firefighters as they drastically reduce the amount of time necessary to search a burning structure for potentially trapped occupants and locating the seat of the fire.

On January 15, 2016, Fire Department staff submitted a grant application to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant for \$98,845. The application was filed on the City's behalf by Shamrock Consulting (Geoff Maloon). We were notified on April 27, 2016 that Salinas had been selected to receive the entire amount of the grant: \$89,860 of federal funds and a 10% City match of \$8,985 for a total of \$98,845.00.

The Fire Department currently uses the Bullard T3 Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC). Bullard offers an upgrade option for existing T3 cameras to the T4X for \$3,999 per unit. The Department has six (6) cameras that are eligible for the upgrade. The Department is in need of eight (8) additional cameras to ensure that all front-line apparatus and primary reserve apparatus are outfitted. Each additional camera is \$9,500. The total purchase price (both upgrade and new purchase) with tax and shipping is \$109,118.45.

The cameras have been competitively bid through the Fire-Rescue Group Purchasing Organization (Fire-Rescue GPO). LN Curtis and Son's is the contract holder for this bid (contract #VH11277) and they are the sole source provider for the Bullard TIC products. As such, we are not able to comply with the Local Purchasing Ordinance. The City Council has authority under Salinas Municipal Code sections 12-25 and 12-28.080 to make the proposed purchase.

ISSUE:

Shall the City Council:

1. Accept and appropriate a grant award from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant award for \$98,845 (\$89,860 federal funding and \$8,985 City matching funds); and
2. Authorize the purchase of 14 Bullard T4X Thermal Imaging Cameras from LN Curtis and Sons, Inc. for \$109,118.45.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total amount of \$19,258.45 (10% City match + funds for additional cameras) is available in the FY 2016-2017 Fire Department operating budget.

TIME CONSIDERATIONS:

The performance period of the grant is until April 27, 2017. However, due to the state of the current thermal imaging cameras, time is of the essence to get them replaced. Once approved, all equipment can be ordered and delivered within 60 days.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Not accept the grant which will nullify the purchase of equipment.
2. Accept the grant but not authorize the purchase and provide further direction to staff.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS:

The recommendation supports City Council goals of:

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

CONCLUSIONS:

The acquisition of new thermal imaging cameras will help to maintain our safe and efficient operations on the emergency scene. Since their acquisition, we have been able to more rapidly search occupied structures and locate and contain fires, reducing property loss from fires. They are mission critical pieces of equipment to help us keep our community fire safe.

Back Up Pages:

Attachment 1 – Grant Application

Attachment 2 – Grant Award

Attachment 3 – Quote from LN Curtis
Resolution