

# Council Business Meeting

October 16, 2018

<b>Agenda Item</b>	FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Submission	
<b>From</b>	Michael D'Orazi	Fire Chief
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## **SUMMARY**

The application period for the 2018 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) opened on September 24, 2018 and will close on October 29, 2018. Ashland Fire & Rescue is requesting approval to submit two grant applications during this process. The first would be for the purchase of a quint style aerial apparatus and the second would be for the purchase of Power Cot gurneys for our ambulances.

## **POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED**

4. City Council Goals and Objectives: Support Innovative Programs that protect the community
23. City Council Goals and Objectives: Cultivate external funding opportunities
- 28.3 Administrative Goals and Objectives: Identify funding for acquisition of aerial ladder device
7. Ashland Fire & Rescue Strategic Plan 2015-2020: Aerial apparatus high priority for all stakeholders

## **PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION**

N/A

## **BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The Department of Homeland Security, through FEMA, fund the AFG grant program that has been in place for several years. These grant programs give fire departments an opportunity to acquire equipment, personnel, and training that they would otherwise not be able to fund. Ashland Fire & Rescue has been awarded a number of grants over the past several years. This year Ashland Fire & Rescue wishes to apply for the following grants:

- \$1,000,000 for the purchase of a quint style aerial apparatus
- \$153,775 for the purchase of three Power Cot ambulance gurneys with compatible load, lift, and restraint systems

Ashland Fire & Rescue has identified four major areas of community risk which has directed us to pursue the quint apparatus.

1. The inability to perform quick, effective rescues above the second story of any building in our City.
2. The lack of an elevated master stream of water necessary to prevent massive property loss in fires located three or more stories above ground level.
3. The inability to complete effective and efficient vertical ventilation operations to support firefighting efforts and enhance firefighter safety.
4. The risks posed to firefighters when trying to mitigate the gaps in operational capabilities an aerial ladder would provide.

Currently our ambulances are outfitted with gurneys which must be lifted, lowered, and secured manually. Additionally, these gurneys are secured on a bracket with a single, non-locking hand operated clamp. The Power Cot

gurneys with the lift, load, and restraint systems feature battery powered hydraulic systems to raise and lower the gurney and integrated safety locking systems. The purchase of this equipment will improve the safety and performance of our firefighters and more effectively safeguard the lives of the patients in our care.

### **FISCAL IMPACTS**

There is no cost for submission of the grant funding applications. If approved, these grants would require the fire department receiving the award to fund 10% of the program cost. The maximum amount of a grant award for a city of our size would be \$1,000,000. For the quint style apparatus, the City match would be \$100,000 if we were awarded a \$1,000,000 grant. There would be some additional costs of approximately \$35,000 for equipment for the quint which could not be funded through the grant submission.

The City match for the Power Cot ambulance gurneys would be \$15,377.50 should we be awarded this grant request. Because of the limitation on the amount of the grant awarded, we would not be eligible to accept both grants if they both received approval.

If we are awarded a grant(s), a council communication will be submitted for consideration.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends Council approve the grant funding applications.

### **ACTIONS, OPTIONS & POTENTIAL MOTIONS**

I move to approve the grant funding applications from Ashland Fire & Rescue to FEMA for the AFG grant programs.

### **REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Get Ready Guide

# Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG)



# FEMA

## AFG Narrative Get Ready Guide 2018

The Assistance to Firefighters Grants application period will be opening soon. This handy guide will give you a kick-start in prepping your grant application. It will also better prepare you to thoroughly answer application questions.

The primary goal of the AFG Program is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments, nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations, and State Fire Training Academies (SFTA). AFG has helped firefighters, emergency medical responders, and SFTAs obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.

Be prepared to thoroughly explain, document, and provide background information on the following five areas:

- Organization (and the community you serve)
- Financial Need
- Project Description/Budget justification
- Operations and Safety/Cost Benefit
- Statement of Effect/Impact on Daily Operations

The following questions can help you formulate comprehensive answers on your application. Begin your discussion with a brief (no more than three sentences) opening statement as to what you are requesting and why. Then discuss the following:

### Organization and the Community Served

- In your own words, describe your organization.
- What are your special needs required to serve the community?

- Describe any special hazards in your community.
- What are the demands of your organization based on the needs of the community?

### Financial Need

- Why do you need federal assistance and is it consistent with the intent of the AFG program?
- Describe your financial distress, including budget constraints
- Describe what attempts have been made to secure funding elsewhere and why financial distress is out of your control

### Project Description and Budget Justification

- Clearly discuss project objectives and their relationship to budget and risk analysis.
- Explain how the proposed expenses are linked to completion of the project.
- Describe how the various activities applied for are consistent with project objectives, your mission, and local requirements
- For the most competitive application, select those need(s) that most closely align with the highest AFG program priority(ies).

**Example:** Organization “X” has *local needs* for an additional Fire Boat (> 20 feet) for their fleet, advanced Marine Firefighter training for members, and new PPE turnout gear to replace their entire 20 year old inventory.

1. Fire Boats are Low **L** priority for all organizations;
2. Marine Firefighter training is a Medium **M** priority for all organizations, but
3. Replacing unusable/unrepairable PPE turnout gear is a Highpriority for all organizations.

Organization “X” is eligible to apply for all three activities (Fire Boat under Vehicle Acquisition, and Marine Firefighting and PPE under Operations and Safety), but among these local needs, the PPE request (which matches the High **H** AFG program priority) will be the *more competitive* application with the best chance of being funded.

#### Operations/Cost Benefit

- What is the benefit to your department if the grant is awarded?
- How will you address the operations and personal safety needs of your organization, including cost effectiveness and sharing assets?
- Include details about gaining the maximum benefits by citing required costs.
- Will the requested items lower or increase your department’s operating costs?
- Is the request consistent with your mission?

#### Statement of Effect

- What effect will your request, if funded, have on overall effectiveness, daily operations, and the reduction of common risks?
- How frequently will the items be used and in what capacity?
- What impact will this project have on your community and the saving of lives and property?



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Questions regarding your grant award can be directed to FEMA’s Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) AFG Program staff at 866-274-0960 or e-mail [firegrants@dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@dhs.gov).