

Council Business Meeting

November 16, 2021

Agenda Item	Request for Approval to Apply for 2021 AFG Grant	
From	Ralph Sartain	Fire Chief
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SUMMARY

On November 2, 2021, Ashland Fire & Rescue (AF&R) received an email from FEMA (attached) advising of the short window opening of the 2021 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG). The application is scheduled to close on December 17, 2021. Ashland Fire & Rescue is requesting permission from Council to apply for this Grant program which has a money match requirement from the City one time in the amount of 10% of the Award. Ashland Fire & Rescue would like to apply for two AFG grants. One grant for a Fire Apparatus, which is a replacement of Engine 8811 valued up to \$800,000. The second application will be in the amount of nearly \$200,000 for training, safety equipment (Radios, Turn-Outs and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)).

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

Council Goal 1 -Develop current and long-term budgetary resilience

Council Goal 2 - Analyze City departments/programs to gain efficiencies, reduce costs and improve services

Cost Review Ad-Hoc Committee Recommendation #5 (approved by Council May 19, 2020)-Direct staff to advise definitive ways where they could streamline operations with the goal of creating a meaningful cost/benefit review of services offered and that also creates efficiencies and reduces costs.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

None

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

None

FISCAL IMPACTS

The AFG Program requires that agencies receiving funding pay 10% of the overall costs associated with award(s). Therefore, staff is looking at matching funds that could range from \$20,000 to \$100,000 total depending upon whether we are awarded funding for one or both grants.

In the event that neither project is funded there would be no financial cost to the City.

Any allowable overhead and fees will be applied to the grant budget and if the grants are awarded the department will approach the Council at a later date with a Supplemental Budget request.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests the approval of this grant application.

ACTIONS, OPTIONS & POTENTIAL MOTIONS

I move to approve Ashland Fire & Rescue's applications to FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for the purpose of funding the purchase of a replacement fire apparatus and for personal protective equipment and training funds.

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS



APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021, for fiscal year (FY) 2021 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) PROGRAM

The FY 2021 AFG application period will open on **Monday, November 8, 2021, at 8:00 a.m. ET** and will close on **Friday, December 17, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. ET**.

Start planning your FY 2021 AFG grant application now by reviewing the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) on the AFG [website](#) .

Fire Grants Help Desk: *If you have questions about the NOFO, call or email the Fire Grants Help Desk. The toll-free number is 1-866-274-0960; the e-mail address for questions is firegrants@fema.dhs.gov. The Fire Grants Help Desk is open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET.*

FY 2021 AFG GRANT PROGRAM WORKSHOPS

For applicants interested in learning how to apply for funding under the AFG program, we are hosting a series of workshops covering the AFG application process. These workshop will outline important information and reminders about cost share requirements, program priorities, eligible costs, how to navigate the grant application, and tips for preparing an AFG application.

AFG Workshop Schedule can be found on the AFG website at

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/workshops>

SAM.GOV REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO APPLY AND RECEIVE GRANTS

All eligible applicants **must** be registered and active in the System for Award Management (SAM) **before** you can start an application. Per 2 CFR § 25.205, FEMA may not make an award to an entity until the entity has complied with the requirements to provide a valid DUNS number and maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information. To register, or validate your SAM.gov information, please visit: <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/>.

SAM.gov Registration Tips:

Please ensure the following items are current in SAM and the DUNS number used in SAM is the same one you use for all FEMA applications:

- Organization's name
- Address
- Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)
- Employer Identification Number (EIN)
- Banking information - type of account (checking or saving), routing number, and account number

The above information should be consistent throughout all registration documents.

Many websites may look official in appearance but are not. As a reminder, registration in the SAM.gov is FREE.

SAM.gov registration is only active for one year and must be renewed annually.

Should you need assistance with your SAM.gov account, there are several ways to get help:

- Submit your SAM.gov question online to the Federal Service Help Desk at <https://www.fsd.gov/fsd-gov/home.do>.
- Call the Federal Service Help Desk toll free at (866) 606-8220 open Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.
- [Quick Start Guides for Grant Registrations](#) and [SAM Video Tutorial for New Applicants](#) are tools created by the General Services Administration to assist those registering with the System for Award Management (SAM).

If you have questions or concerns about your SAM.gov registration, please contact the Federal Support desk at <https://www.fsd.gov/fsd-gov/home.do>.

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SHARE YOUR SUCCESS STORY

Do you have a Success Story regarding a FEMA Grant that you'd like to share with everyone? Contact us through Twitter [@FEMAGrants](#) using a private message.