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FIRE DEPARTMENT

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December 4, 2013

Honorable Members of the City Council
City of Los Angeles
City Hall, Room 395
Attention: City Clerk

Honorable Eric Garcetti
Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Room 303, City Hall
Attention: Mandy Morales, Legislative Coordinator

[BFC 13-143] – ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS TO CONTINUE THE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM RESOURCES – URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE FY 2013 READINESS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

At its meeting of December 3, 2013, the Board of Fire Commissioners approved the Fire Department's report dated December 3, 2013, requesting that the Mayor and City Council authorize the Fire Chief to accept the grant award from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) and execute a no-match Cooperative Agreement in the amount of \$1,251,154 for the term of October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2015, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality.

The report is herewith transmitted concurrently to the City Council and the Mayor for review and approval. Should you need additional information, please contact the Board of Fire Commissioners office at 213-978-3838.

Sincerely,

Leticia Gómez
Commission Executive Assistant

Attachment

cc: Miguel A. Santana, City Administrative Officer (without attachment)
Gerry F. Miller, Chief Legislative Analyst (without attachment)
Board of Fire Commissioners
Fire Chief Featherstone

December 3, 2013

12/3/13
James G. Featherstone

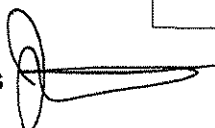
LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



JAMES G. FEATHERSTONE
INTERIM FIRE CHIEF

December 3, 2013

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 13-143

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners 

FROM: James G. Featherstone, Interim Fire Chief

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS TO CONTINUE THE
DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE NATIONAL URBAN
SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM RESOURCES – URBAN
SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE FY 2013 READINESS
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

FINAL ACTION:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

SUMMARY

On April 4, 1993, the Mayor and City Council authorized the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These actions established the LAFD as a sponsoring agency and host of a FEMA Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force, California Task Force 1 (CA-TF1). On August 12, 2011, the Mayor and City Council authorized the updating of this agreement. Through this MOA, FEMA supports CA-TF1 annually using a Cooperative Agreement (Attachment 1) to fund the program. The Agreement supports an equipment cache, CA-TF1 member training, and full-time personnel to manage the cache and administrate CA-TF1's US&R program. In recent years the City Council has accepted no-match Cooperative Agreements from FEMA ranging from \$632,915 to \$1,276,608.

This is a reimbursement grant. FEMA requires that funds be reimbursed after the actual payment of expenditures is made, and the appropriate documentation supporting these expenditures is submitted. As the LAFD incurs expenses from this program, expenditures will be reimbursed by FEMA funds on an ongoing basis.

Funds are categorized into two basic groups. One consists of funds to pay LAFD personnel. The second group consists of funds for personal services contracts, training, supplies, and equipment, as needed by CA-TF1.

Future Cooperative Agreements will continue to be made available to the LAFD on a periodic basis furthering our US&R efforts. The funding breakdown of this Cooperative Agreement is contained within the attached Application and Spending Plan (Attachment 2).

2013 FEMA Cooperative Agreement

To meet the required deadline, pursuant to Administrative Code 14.6, the LAFD submitted the application seeking \$1,251,154, for the 2013 no-match FEMA grant. The LAFD received a FEMA Cooperative Agreement grant in the amount of \$1,251,154 to administer CA-TF1. This Cooperative Agreement will fund necessary program administration, supplies, equipment, and training. Pursuant to City policy, the LAFD is seeking approval from the Mayor and the City Council to accept and execute this Award.

LAFD personnel costs for this program will cost \$415,014. Prior Cooperative Agreements included funding for resolution authorities for two (2) Captain I positions and one (1) Management Analyst II position to manage the program. These costs include salaries and the fringe based on the Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) 33 and will be paid directly from the LAFD's salary accounts and reimbursed back into the respective salary accounts from which expenses are incurred. Approximately \$310,510 will be paid in Fiscal Year 2013/2014 and the remaining \$104,504 will be paid in Fiscal Year 2014/2015.

Personnel training costs are budgeted at \$484,000 of which approximately \$454,000 will be used in Fiscal Year 2013/2014 and \$30,000 in Fiscal Year 2014/2015. These personnel training costs will be paid directly from the LAFD's salary accounts.

Up to \$352,140 of the remaining balance will pay for contractual services, training, supplies, and necessary equipment for the programs operations. The LAFD is asking to transfer \$200,000 of the \$352,140 in the Fiscal Year 2013/2014. Since this grant covers both Fiscal Years 2013/2014 and 2014/2015, expiring March 31, 2015, the remaining \$152,140 will be requested to be borrowed from the sworn salary account in Fiscal Year 2014/2015. Since this is a reimbursement grant, the LAFD needs to transfer \$200,000 from Department 38, Fund 100, Account 001012, to Department 38, Fund 335, Account to be determined.

Personal services contracts are needed for nine (9) required specialized positions. These include two (2) Canine Search Specialists, four (4) Medical Team Managers, and three (3) Structural Engineering Specialists. Because this is an on-going program, the City has existing relationships with these required positions. Because these positions are so specialized, it is difficult to find qualified contractors. Consequently, the LAFD seeks to enter into sole source agreements with the existing contractors pursuant to Administrative Code 10.15(a)(2), which allows non-competitive contracts for the performance of professional, scientific, expert, technical, or other special services of a temporary and occasional character, where the contracting authority finds that competitive bidding is not practicable or advantageous.

Although the LAFD seeks authority to execute each of these contracts for up to \$99,000, it is unlikely, absent a deployment, that these contractors will receive the full amount of the contract. Each will be paid for training and other preparation, by an hourly rate, depending upon the individual contractor's qualifications. In addition to the amount authorized under the 2013 FEMA Cooperative Agreement, FEMA will ultimately be responsible for payment to these contractors for any time spent in a FEMA authorized deployment. Because the City must advance FEMA authorized deployment compensation and then obtain reimbursement from FEMA, the City must have a mechanism to pay each contractor in addition to the time spent on training and other preparation. Consequently, each contract provides for payment up to \$99,000.

CA-TF1 must maintain medical supplies including pharmaceutical inventories. While the LAFD has an existing contract with Providence Health System – Southern California D/B/A Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center to provide this service, the LAFD contacted three other hospitals to obtain estimates. Unfortunately, none were willing to enter into agreements. The LAFD therefore seeks authorization for the Fire Chief to enter into a sole source agreement with Providence Health System – Southern California D/B/A Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center in accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code 10.5(a)(2), which allows non-competitive contracts for the performance of professional, scientific, expert, technical, or other special services of a temporary and occasional character, where the contracting authority finds that competitive bidding is not practical or advantageous. Providence Health System – Southern California D/B/A Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center currently is the regional cache center, since it carries enough supplies to support ten hospitals in case of an emergency. Providence Health System – Southern California D/B/A Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center is able to provide a locked, secure refrigerated storage for the CA-TF1 medical cache.

In addition to the total amount authorized under the 2013 FEMA Cooperative Agreement, FEMA will ultimately be responsible for payment under this contract, pursuant to the reimbursement process FEMA established for FEMA authorized deployments. Because the City must advance payments, and then obtain reimbursement from FEMA, the City must have a mechanism to pay this contractor if services are required. The budgeted amount for these services is up to \$99,000.

Finally, the Cooperative Agreement requires CA-TF1, upon deployment, to have access to snake anti-venom. Consequently, the LAFD requests that the Fire Chief have authority to enter into a sole source agreement, in accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code 10.15 (a)(2), with UCLA Medical Center, for the purpose of purchasing snake anti-venom when required. UCLA Medical Center is in close proximity to LAFD's US&R Unit, where mobilization efforts are made for deployment. Depending on where a FEMA deployment may occur, it is necessary to procure the specific type of snake anti-venom needed for the locale, and UCLA maintains sufficient variety of snake anti-venom, since UCLA Medical Center farms snakes for the purpose of producing snake anti-venom.

This Cooperative Agreement will allow the LAFD, as the sponsoring agency of CA-TF1, to purchase the needed anti-venom upon deployment only. FEMA will ultimately be responsible for payment under this contract, pursuant to the reimbursement process FEMA established for FEMA authorized deployment. Because the City must advance payments, and then obtain reimbursement from FEMA, the City must have a mechanism to pay this contractor if services are required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:

1. Accept and approve the recommendations of staff.
2. Instruct the Commission Executive Assistant II to forward this report to the Mayor, Office of the City Administrative Officer, Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst, and City Clerk for Committee and City Council consideration in accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code, Section 14.6.
3. Request that the Mayor and City Council authorize the Fire Chief to accept the grant award from FEMA for the US&R CA-TF1 and execute a no-match Cooperative Agreement in the amount of \$1,251,154 for the term of October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2015, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality.
4. Request that the Mayor and City Council authorize the Controller to transfer \$200,000 from Department 38, Fund 100, Account 001012 to Department 38, Fund 335, Account to be determined, to support the purchase of necessary expense and equipment items that will be reimbursed by the FEMA grant for the period of October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2015.
5. Request that the Mayor and City Council authorize the Fire Chief, or his designee, to deposit the FEMA grant funds received under this grant into LAFD Grant Fund No. 335, Account to be determined.
6. Request that the Mayor and City Council authorize the Fire Chief, or his designee, to deposit the FEMA grant funds received under this grant into the LAFD Fund 100, Account 004681 for fringe benefits upon submission of proper documentation by the LAFD of actual costs incurred from the continued development and maintenance of US&R Response System resources through March 31, 2015.
7. Request that the Mayor and City Council authorize the Controller to transfer funds, between Fund No. 335/38, Account to be determined to various salary accounts within Fund No. 100/38, upon submission of proper documentation by the LAFD of actual costs incurred from the continued development and maintenance of US&R Response System resources through March 31, 2015.

8. Request that the Mayor and City Council authorize the Controller to transfer the uncommitted balance of advanced funds as of June 1, 2014 from Fund 335, Department 38, Appropriation Account to be determined, to Fund 100, Department 38, Account 001012 Salary Sworn, to meet payroll needs.
9. Request that the Mayor and City Council, in accordance with Administrative Code 4.133(a), that the following three positions will remain approved and authorized by Resolution, for the period of October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2015 within the LAFD.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Class Title</u>
2	2142-1	Fire Captain I
1	9184-2	Management Analyst II

10. Request that the Mayor and City Council authorize the CAO to make any necessary technical corrections and to revise any Controller instructions consistent with this action.
11. Request that the Mayor and City Council authorize the Fire Chief to negotiate and execute 9 sole-source, personal services contracts, each with a sum not to exceed \$99,000, during the period of this grant, for specialized services, required by FEMA, as follows:

Canine Search Specialists (two contracts),
Debra Tosch
Jeffrey Neu

Medical Team Managers (four contracts)
Dr. Gregory Palmer
Dr. Francine Vogler
Dr. Eric Ley
Dr. Brian Wilbur

Structural Engineering Specialist (three contracts)
Neville Peirera
Essam Lobnan
Sean M. Hughes

12. Request that the Mayor and City Council authorize the Fire Chief to negotiate and execute a contract with Providence Health System – Southern California D/B/A Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center, not to exceed \$99,000, during the period of this grant, for Medical Cache maintenance, as required by FEMA.
13. Request that the Mayor and City Council authorize the Fire Chief to negotiate and execute a sole-source contract with UCLA Medical Center, not to exceed \$99,000, during the period of this grant, to purchase snake anti-venom upon deployment, as required by FEMA.

14. Request that the Mayor and City Council instruct the Fire Chief to authorize payments for contracts delineated in Recommendations Nos. eleven (11) through thirteen (13) in a total amount not to exceed \$352,140, unless a FEMA authorized deployment occurs.

FISCAL IMPACT

The LAFD seeks to transfer \$200,000 from Department 38, Fund 100, Account 001012 (Salaries Sworn) to Department 38, Fund 335, Account to be determined, to support the expense and equipment purchases necessary for the program's operations in Fiscal Year 2013/2014. The remaining grant funds are salary expenses for program administration and training personnel costs, these costs will come directly from the salary accounts and be reimbursed back into the salary accounts. Since this grant covers both Fiscal Years 2013/2014 and 2014/2015, expiring March 31, 2015, the remaining \$152,140 will be requested to be borrowed from the sworn salary account in Fiscal Year 2014/2015.

There is no impact on the General Fund.

CONCLUSION

As a sponsor of one of the Nation's 28 FEMA US&R Task Forces, the LAFD has been the recipient of financial assistance from FEMA to supplement ongoing cost to maintain Task Force readiness. The LAFD has been notified that FEMA has offered a no-match \$1,251,154 Cooperative Agreement. This Cooperative Agreement is to be used for program management and staffing, travel, training delivery, and equipment acquisition.

Board report prepared by Management Analyst II, Mary E. Reuschel, Management Analyst II, Emergency Services Bureau.

Attachments

