

# LOS ANGELES FIRE COMMISSION

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FIRE COMMISSIONERS

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
200 NORTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 1840  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

(213) 978-3838 PHONE  
(213) 978-3814 FAX

December 19, 2017

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

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

## [BFC 17-134] – FY 2016 STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT – HIRING OF FIREFIGHTERS

At its meeting of December 19, 2017, the Board of Fire Commissioners approved the report and its recommendations. The report is hereby transmitted concurrently to the Mayor and City Council for consideration and approval.

Should you need additional information, please contact the Board of Fire Commissioners' office at 213-978-3838.

Sincerely,

Isela Iñiguez  
Acting Commission Executive Assistant

Attachment

cc: Board of Fire Commissioners (without attachments)  
Fire Chief Ralph M. Terrazas (without attachments)

**LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT**



APPROVED 12/19/17  
 BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
 BY: *[Signature]*

RALPH TERRAZAS  
 FIRE CHIEF

December 4, 2017

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
 FILE NO. 17-134

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: *[Signature]* Ralph M. Terrazas, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: FY 2016 STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT – HIRING OF FIREFIGHTERS

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 Withdrawn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**

The FY 2016 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant, “Hiring of Firefighters Activity” category, provides financial assistance to help fire departments hire new firefighters to improve staffing levels to ensure adequate personnel to respond and safely perform at fire and fire-related incidents. On August 4, 2017, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) was notified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the SAFER Grant award for Firefighter hiring in an amount up to \$15,468,782, which was the largest amount awarded to FY 2016 SAFER Grantees. As a condition of this award, the City is required to contribute a cost match in an amount up to \$9,615,730 for the total approved project cost of up to \$25,084,512. The overall Federal and City cost share is approximately 60% and 40%, respectively. The Grant performance period covers three years, from January 22, 2018 through January 21, 2021.

The following table includes the significant SAFER Grant requirements and the LAFD’s comments:

SAFER Grant Requirements	Comments
SAFER funds may only be used to hire <u>new, additional</u> Firefighters.	The SAFER-funded Firefighter Recruit Academy is scheduled to commence on January 22, 2018 to comply with the performance start date. Graduation is scheduled for June 7, 2018 with field assignments commencing June 10, 2018.
Grant funds are disbursed on a reimbursement basis of actual salary (excluding overtime) and benefit costs provided to Firefighters.	The total project cost of up to \$25.08M (\$15.47M Federal share/\$9.62M City share) was awarded to hire 48 Firefighter recruits.

<p>The Federal and City cost share for each year is as follows. The overall cost share is approximately 60% Federal/40% City.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="185 373 803 552"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><u>Federal Share</u></th> <th><u>City Share</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Year 1 (1/22/18-1/21/19)</td> <td>75%</td> <td>25%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 2 (1/22/19-1/21/20)</td> <td>75%</td> <td>25%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 3 (1/22/20-1/21/21)</td> <td>35%</td> <td>65%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>Federal Share</u>	<u>City Share</u>	Year 1 (1/22/18-1/21/19)	75%	25%	Year 2 (1/22/19-1/21/20)	75%	25%	Year 3 (1/22/20-1/21/21)	35%	65%	<p>The estimated fiscal year Federal and City cost share breakdown for 48 Firefighters is as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="820 373 1429 552"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Fiscal Year</u></th> <th><u>Federal Share</u></th> <th><u>City Share</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2017-18</td> <td>\$ 1.73M (75%)</td> <td>\$0.58M (25%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018-19</td> <td>5.70M (75%)</td> <td>1.90M (25%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019-20</td> <td>4.41M (75%/35%)</td> <td>3.61M (25%/65%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-21</td> <td><u>1.60M</u> (35%)</td> <td><u>2.97M</u> (65%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>\$13.66M</td> <td>\$9.13M</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Federal Share</u>	<u>City Share</u>	2017-18	\$ 1.73M (75%)	\$0.58M (25%)	2018-19	5.70M (75%)	1.90M (25%)	2019-20	4.41M (75%/35%)	3.61M (25%/65%)	2020-21	<u>1.60M</u> (35%)	<u>2.97M</u> (65%)	TOTAL	\$13.66M	\$9.13M
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<p>During the three year performance period, recipients must maintain the “Staffing Maintenance Number” comprised of operational staffing at the level that existed on the date of award and the number of awarded SAFER positions. Operational staffing is defined as all paid positions with a primary assignment (more than 50% of duties) of fire suppression regardless of collateral duties, in support of the Department’s NFPA 1710/1720 compliance.</p> <p>Any vacated operational staff or SAFER funded Firefighter position must be filled within six months during the performance period.</p>	<p>The LAFD “Staffing Maintenance Number” over the three year performance period is as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="820 699 1429 814"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Operational Staff:</td> <td>2,711</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SAFER Funded Firefighters:</td> <td><u>48</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>2,759</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Operational Staff:	2,711	SAFER Funded Firefighters:	<u>48</u>	TOTAL	2,759																								
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In FY 2011-12, 11 engine companies were closed to address the City’s fiscal challenges. Four engine companies have been since restored (Fire Stations 9, 35, 69, 105). One of LAFD’s goals in applying for the SAFER Grant was to enable restoration of four additional engine companies (Fire Stations 1, 20, 73, 75) to improve response times, and enhance public safety and services. Staffing four engine companies requires the following staffing level: 12 Captains, 12 Engineers, and 24 Firefighters. Because only new Firefighters are eligible for SAFER Grant funding, position authorities and funding from the General Fund must be authorized for the 12 Captains and 12 Engineers.

The FY 2017-18 LAFD Budget will absorb the direct salary costs of \$297,634 for the Captain and Engineer positions (to be filled June 10, 2018), and \$575,556 for the City share of the SAFER-funded Firefighter positions. The FY 2018-19 LAFD Proposed Budget includes a request for regular authority and full year funding for these Captain (\$2.4M) and Engineer (\$2.1M) positions, and regular authority and City share funding for the SAFER Grant Firefighter positions (\$1.9M).

Twenty four of the 48 new SAFER-funded Firefighters would be deployed to the four restored engine companies. The remaining SAFER Firefighters would replace up to 24 of the 52 sworn personnel projected to exit the Department, between January and June 2018, due to DROP or retirement. It must be noted that SAFER Grant funded hires subsequently assigned to fill General Funded vacancies cannot continue to be funded

by the Grant. Therefore, an equivalent number of new Firefighter hires in subsequent Recruit Training classes would be hired as new SAFER-funded recruits.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The SAFER Grant project cost totals up to \$25.08M with the Federal cost share of up to \$15.47M (60%) and City cost share of up to \$9.62M (40%) during the three year performance period from January 22, 2018 through January 21, 2021. Acceptance of the SAFER Grant will provide financial assistance toward the hiring of 48 new Firefighter recruits. Grant disbursements are on a reimbursement basis of actual salary and fringe benefits costs.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Board:

1. Approve and transmit the report to the Mayor and City Council for consideration and approval.
2. Request the City Council, subject to approval of the Mayor:
  - (a) Accept the FY 2016 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant in the amount of \$15,468,782 for the performance period of January 22, 2018 through January 21, 2021, and authorize the Fire Chief, or designee, to execute any documents or agreements necessary to accept the grant on the City's behalf.
  - (b) Authorize the Fire Department to deposit FY 2016 SAFER Grant funds received into Fund 335, Department 38, Account to be determined.
  - (c) Authorize the Controller, for reimbursement purposes, to transfer FY 2016 SAFER Grant funds from Fund 335, Department 38, Account to be determined, to various Fund 100, Department 38 sworn salary accounts upon submission of proper documentation by the Fire Department of direct salary costs incurred during the grant performance period.
  - (d) Authorize the Controller to transfer FY 2016 SAFER Grant funds from Fund 335, Department 38 to Fund 100, Department 38, Revenue Source 5346 (Reimbursement of Grant Related Costs) for fringe benefits upon submission of proper documentation by the Fire Department of costs incurred during the grant performance period.
  - (e) Authorize to the Fire Department resolution authority for the following positions from January 22 through June 30, 2018, upon allocation by the Civil Service Commission:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Class Title</u>
12	2142-1	Fire Captain I
12	2131	Engineer of the Fire Department
48	2112-3	Firefighter III

- (f) Authorize the Fire Department to prepare Controller instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to approval of the City Administrative Officer, and instruct the Controller to implement the instructions.
- (g) Based on Fire Department submissions to the City Administrative Officer of grant budget modifications approved by the grantor, authorize the Fire Department and Controller to transfer funds, as needed, between Fund 335, Department 38 and Fund 100, Department 38 for implementation of the FY 2016 SAFER Grant.

The Board report was prepared by June Gibson, Fire Administrator, Administrative Services Bureau.