

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: November 22, 2021

CAO File No. 0100-00144-0338

Council File No. 20-1387

Council District: All

To: The Mayor
The Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer



Reference: Transmittal from the Board of Fire Commissioners dated November 3, 2021

Subject: **SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR THE 2020 FEDERAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) GRANT AWARD FOR THE URBAN SEARCH
AND RESCUE TASK FORCE**

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor:

1. Approve and authorize the Fire Chief, or designee, to accept supplemental funding in the amount of \$47,918 relative to the 2020 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Cooperative Agreement Grant for the Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force, and execute any documents or agreements necessary to accept the grant, subject to the approval by the City Attorney as to form;
2. Authorize the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to deposit the 2020 FEMA grant funds received under this cooperative agreement into Fund 335 FEMA USR 2020, Department 38, Account 38020R;
3. Authorize the Controller to transfer \$47,918 from Fund 100, Department 38, Account 001012 Salaries Sworn to Fund 335, Department 38, Account 38020R, for the purchase of expense and equipment items, to be reimbursed by the FEMA grant;
4. Authorize the LAFD and Controller to transfer funds, as needed, between Fund 335, Department 38 and Fund 100, Department 38, for the implementation of the 2020 FEMA US&R Cooperative Agreement, based on the submissions to the City Administrative Officer (CAO) of grant budget modifications approved by FEMA, through the end of the grant performance period on August 31, 2023; and,
5. Authorize the LAFD to prepare Controller instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to the approval of the CAO, and authorize the Controller to implement the instructions.

SUMMARY

In accordance with Executive Directive No. 3, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) submits the proposed request to accept \$47,918 in additional funding relative to the 2020 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant award. The proposed funding will increase the total grant award from \$1,180,631 to \$1,228,549. The grant performance period will remain unchanged from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2023.

At its meeting of November 2, 2021, the Board of Fire Commissioners (Board) approved a LAFD report relative to the acceptance of additional grant funds from the FEMA in the amount of \$47,918 for the recapitalization of equipment in support of the City's Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force. LAFD will use the funding for the replacement of non-functioning, obsolete, and unsupported equipment items within the following categories: communications, technical, hazmat, rescue, medical and vehicles. As part of the Board's report, the LAFD is requesting to transfer funds from the Salaries Sworn Account to the 2020 FEMA Account to front-fund the cost of purchasing equipment, which will be reimbursed by the grant award following submission of supporting documentation.

On April 4, 1993, the City entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with FEMA and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, to establish the LAFD as one of 28 participating agencies of the FEMA US&R Task Force (C.F. 92-2021-S1). Under the terms of the MOA, the LAFD is responsible for organizing and administering the Task Force to include recruiting and training, designating a Program Manager, maintaining capability for 24-hour activation, and complying with financial, administrative, reimbursement, and reporting requirements. As a participating agency, the LAFD receives funding from FEMA for the equipment, supplies, training, and salaries in support of the US&R CA-TF1 Team. Upon request by the State or Federal government, the LAFD will mobilize US&R CA-TF1 for the purpose of locating, extricating, and providing initial medical treatment to trapped victims of structural collapses at a designated disaster site. On August 12, 2011, the Council approved an amendment to the MOA (C.F. 10-2283-S1) reflecting the transfer of FEMA to the Department of Homeland Security and the publication of the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Regulations.

On April 21, 2021, the Council approved the Public Safety Committee report and Cooperative Agreement for the acceptance of the 2020 FEMA US&R grant award in the amount of \$1,180,631, for a three-year performance period beginning on September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2023 (C.F. 20-1387). Funds were programmed for the following:

- \$536,624 - Personnel costs for one Fire Captain I and one Management Analyst (C.F. 08-2490), and one Storekeeper (C.F. 16-0600) to administer and manage the US&R program;
- \$130,650 - Funding for the Overtime Variable Account to backfill members assigned to specialized training on search and rescue activities;
- \$42,250 – Overtime costs for the inventory and maintenance of equipment; and,

- \$471,107 - Funding for operational expenses, such as contracts, equipment, and related expenses for specialized personal services relative to Canine Specialists, Medical Team Managers, Structural Engineering Specialists, equipment, supplies, and travel expenses.

In accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code (LAAC) Section 14.6, the LAFD is required to transmit grant applications for Mayor and Council approval before accepting and receiving the grant award. In addition, Mayoral approval is required for any grant program amendments, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality (LAAC 14.8).

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval of the recommendations stated in this report will authorize the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to accept supplemental funding in the amount of \$47,918 for the purchase of equipment in support of the 2020 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Urban Search and Rescue Task Force. The grant award will increase from \$1,180,631 to \$1,228,549. To date the LAFD has expended \$504,340 of the original grant award, with a remaining balance of \$724,209. The term of the cooperative agreement will remain unchanged from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2023. The LAFD will front-fund the costs for the purchase of the equipment, subject to reimbursement by FEMA upon submission of documentation. The FEMA grant does not require matching funds by the City. There is no additional impact to the General Fund.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The recommendations stated in this report comply with the City's Financial Policies in that, to the extent possible, current operations will be funded by current revenues.

MWS:DP:04220045c

Attachments

LOS ANGELES FIRE COMMISSION

BOARD OF
FIRE COMMISSIONERS

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JIMMY H. HARA, M.D.
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INDEPENDENT ASSESSOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
200 NORTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 1840
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November 3, 2021

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: Legislative Coordinator

[BFC 21-095] – ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2020 FEMA URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING (C.F. 20-1387)

At its special meeting of November 2, 2021, 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,

Leticia Gómez
Commission Executive Assistant II

Attachments

cc: Fire Chief Ralph M. Terrazas (via email)
Office of the City Administrative Officer (via email)


LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT
RALPH TERRAZAS
 FIRE CHIEF

APPROVED: 11/2/21
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
BY: [Signature]
COMMISSION EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

October 13, 2021

 BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
 FILE NO. 21-095

TO: *RMT* Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: *RMT* Ralph M. Terrazas, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2020 FEMA URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE
 TASK FORCE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT SUPPLEMENTAL
 FUNDING (C.F. 20-1387)

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, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was executed between the City, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), establishing the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) as a sponsoring agency of a FEMA Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force, California Task Force 1 (CA-TF1). An Amendment to the MOA was executed in 2011 (C.F. 10-2283-S1). Since 1993, the City has been awarded annual FEMA Cooperative Agreement grants to fund equipment, supplies, training, contractual services, and LAFD personnel to administer and manage the US&R CA-TF1 program.

LAFD was awarded an additional \$47,918 for the 2020 FEMA Cooperative Agreement Grant, with a period of performance from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2023. No matching funds are required, but the grant is on a reimbursement basis requiring the LAFD to front-fund expenditures. Following submission of appropriate supporting documentation, FEMA reimburses the City for those expenditures.

The expenditure plan is as follows:

Equipment:

- \$47,918 - to fund the recapitalization of the equipment cache. The US&R Branch submitted the National US&R Response System Equipment Plan in a FY17 Report to Congress which detailed the need to recapitalize specific items that had or were becoming obsolete. Included in the Equipment Plan is a prioritization plan, a summarized list of equipment requiring replacement, and an Appendix containing a detailed priority list of equipment, cache items and unit costs.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact on the General Fund. The FEMA Urban Search and Rescue grant agreement does not require City matching funds. In accordance with grant guidelines, project funds are disbursed on a reimbursement basis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:

1. Approve and transmit the report to the Mayor and the Office of the City Administrative Officer for Committee and City Council consideration.

It is also recommended the Board request that the Mayor and City Council:

2. Accept the 2020 FEMA Cooperative Agreement Supplemental Grant for the Urban Search and Rescue CA-TF1 in the amount of \$47,918 for the term of September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2023, and authorize the Fire Chief, or designee, to execute any documents or agreements necessary to accept the grant on the City's behalf.
3. Authorize the Fire Department to deposit 2020 FEMA grant funds received into Fund 335, Department 38, Account 38020R.
4. Authorize the Controller to transfer \$47,918 from Fund 100, Department 38, Account 001012 (Salaries Sworn) to Fund 335, Department 38, Account 38020R, for the purchase of expense and equipment items, to be reimbursed by the FEMA grant during the period of September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2023, and any extensions granted by FEMA.
5. Authorize the Fire Department to prepare Controller instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to approval of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), and instruct the Controller to implement the instructions.
6. Based on Fire Department submissions to the City Administrative Officer of grant budget modifications approved by FEMA, 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 2020 FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Cooperative Agreement program through the end of the grant performance period.

Board report prepared by Victoria Rodriguez, Management Analyst, Emergency Operations Bureau.