

REPORT FROM

## OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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Date: October 21, 2022

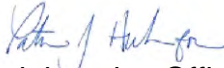
CAO File No. 0100-00144-0345

Council File No. 21-1293

Council District: --

To: The Mayor and Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer



Reference: Transmittal from the Board of Fire Commissioners dated September 20, 2022; referred for report on September 20, 2022

Subject: **CONTINUATION OF THE 2021 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) GRANT AWARD FOR THE URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE IN FY 2022-23 – LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Authorize the Fire Chief, or designee, to deposit the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) grant funds received under this Cooperative Agreement into Fund 335, Department 38, Account 38021R;
2. Authorize the Controller, to transfer 2021 FEMA US&R grant funds from Fund 335, Account 38021R, to various Fund 100, Department 38 salary accounts as follows: 001012, Salaries Sworn Account; 001010, Salaries General Account; 001090, Overtime General Account; and 001098, Overtime Variable Staffing Account, upon submission of proper documentation by the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) for direct staff costs incurred during the grant performance period;
3. Authorize the Controller to transfer 2021 FEMA US&R grant funds from Fund 335, Account 38021R to Fund 100, Department 38, Revenue Source 5346, Reimbursement of Grant Related Costs, for fringe benefits upon submission of proper documentation by the LAFD during the grant performance period; and,
4. Authorize the LAFD to prepare Controller instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to the approval of the Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), and the authorize Controller to implement the instructions.

## **SUMMARY**

In accordance with Executive Directive No. 3, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) requests to continue \$852,569 in grant funding relative to the 2021 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) grant award. The grant performance period for the 2021 FEMA US&R grant award is a three-year term beginning September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2024. There is no match requirement for this grant.

## **BACKGROUND**

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 California Task Force 1 (CA-TF1) recruitment and training, designating a Program Manager, maintaining capability for 24-hour activation, and complying with financial, administrative, reimbursement, and reporting requirements. As a sponsoring agency of the US&R Task Force, the LAFD receives annual grant support from FEMA to support, maintain, and enhance CA-TF1. 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.

### **Grant Award Continuation for FY 2022-23**

On May 31, 2022, the Council approved and accepted the terms of the 2021 FEMA Cooperative Agreement Grant award totaling \$1,238,878 in support of the City's US&R Task Force with a grant performance period beginning September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2024 (C.F. 21-1293). Funds were programmed to cover the following:

- \$577,951 - Personnel costs for one Fire Captain I, one Management Analyst, and one Storekeeper II to administer and manage the US&R program;
- \$179,400 - Funding for the Overtime Variable Staffing Account to backfill members assigned to specialized training on search and rescue activities; and,
- \$481,527 - Funding for contracts, equipment, and related expenses for specialized personal services relative to Canine Specialists, Medical Team Managers, Structural Engineering Specialists, equipment, supplies, and travel expenses.

At its meeting on September 20, 2022, the Board of Fire Commissioners approved a LAFD report requesting to continue \$852,569 in funding from the 2021 FEMA US&R grant award appropriated for salaries, personnel training, contractual services, travel, supplies and the purchase of equipment for program operations.

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 (LAAC 14.8).

### **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Approval of the recommendations stated in this report will authorize the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to continue \$852,569 in funding that remains unexpended from the grant award total of \$1,238,878 provided by the 2021 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force Grant Award for the grant performance period beginning September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2024. The LAFD will front-fund the costs to cover salaries, personnel training, contractual services, travel, supplies and equipment, subject to reimbursement by FEMA upon submission of proper documentation. The 2021 FEMA grant budget for personnel will support the direct salary and fringe benefits costs of the three positions in this report; other indirect costs, including central services and department and administration costs, estimated at \$213,612, are not covered and must be absorbed within budgeted funds. No matching funds are required. There is no additional impact to the General Fund.

### **FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT**

These actions are in compliance with the City's Financial Policies in that all grant funds will be utilized to fund grant activities.

*MWS:JR:04230043*