



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Kevin Richardson, Fire Department

Date: January 8, 2019

Re: Consider approval to accept the SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response) Grant from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) in the amount of \$2,893,637 and authorizing 8 additional Firefighter positions; authorizing City Manager to sign.

2030: Sustainable City Government

Introduction:

Extensive growth and development experienced within the City of Coppell has led to a Fire/Rescue/EMS model that no longer meets safe and effective emergency response levels. The Coppell Fire Department is unable to meet the National Fire Protection Association's NFPA 1710, Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations.

For the past twenty-two (22) months, actions have been taken to address Fire/Rescue/EMS service needs culminating in a formal Standards of Cover Study conducted by Emergency Services Consultants International. On August 29, 2017, City Council selected to move forward with implementing the addition of Fire Station #4, relocation of Fire Station #1, and relocation of the Resource Storage Facility. A multi-year plan was developed with specific milestones including the hiring of 8 FTE Firefighters FY 2018-19 and additional 8 FTE Firefighters FY 2019-20 (16 total).

Analysis:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently awarded the Coppell Fire Department approximately \$2.9 million as part of its Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant program. This grant will allow the Fire Department to expand its team as well as proceed with its four-year improvement plan — which includes the development of a new fire station that will improve emergency services to Coppell's west side and help the City maintain its ISO Class 1 rating that reduces insurance premiums for Coppell residents.

The SAFER Grant allows fire departments to increase the number of firefighters available to service a

city and improves upon their capabilities, response times, and operational standards to better defend against fire-related hazards and other emergencies.

The grant award authorizes the CFD to hire 16 Firefighters beginning March 15, 2019 for a 3-year salary supplement; Year 1=75%, Year 2=75%, Year 3=35%. The Grant period does not coincide with the City of Coppel Fiscal Year and may result in loss of Grant Funding.

Legal Review:

No legal review required.

Fiscal Impact:

Year 1 - \$1,173,096.00 Federal Share / \$391,032.00 Applicant Share

Year 2 - \$1,173,096.00 Federal Share / \$391,032.00 Applicant Share

Year 3 - \$547,445.00 Federal Share / \$1,798,747.00 Applicant Share

Total Federal Share \$2,893,637

Recommendation:

The Coppel Fire Department recommends accepting the implementation schedule associated with the Grant and move forward with a budget amendment to authorize the hiring of 8 additional firefighters, from 95 Full Time Employees FTE to 103, within the current FY2018-19 budget. The adopted budget along with the authorized Grant Award will be sufficient and not require additional funding.