

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM: 3.21  
(ID # 14390)

**MEETING DATE:**  
Tuesday, February 02, 2021

**FROM :** FIRE DEPARTMENT:

**SUBJECT:** FIRE DEPARTMENT: Authorization to Apply for Department of Homeland Security  
FY 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program, All Districts. [Up to  
\$3.55 million available, 85% Federal Funds, 15% Local Match]

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors authorize Riverside County Fire  
Department to apply for the FY 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant.

**ACTION:**

Bill Weiser, Fire Department Chief

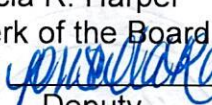
1/19/2021

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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

On motion of Supervisor Jeffries, seconded by Supervisor Hewitt and duly carried by  
unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Hewitt  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Date: February 2, 2021  
xc: Fire

Kecia R. Harper  
Clerk of the Board  
By:   
Deputy

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<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	<b>Current Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Next Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Total Cost:</b>	<b>Ongoing Cost</b>
<b>COST</b>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS: 85% Federal Funds and 15% Local Match</b>			<b>Budget Adjustment: No</b>	
			<b>For Fiscal Year: 21/22, 22/23</b>	

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:** Approve

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary**

The purpose of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The program provides direct financial assistance to fire departments for critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability and support community resilience.

As specified in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, the AFG Program supports the basic mission to Strengthen National Preparedness and Resilience. The “Core Capabilities” of the National Preparedness Goal are addressed through Fire Management and Suppression, Operational Coordination and Communications, and Community Resilience.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is responsible for the implementation and administration of the AFG Program. Since Fiscal Year 2001, the AFG Program has distributed approximately \$7.7 billion in grant funding to provide critically needed resources that equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience. Examples of eligible high priority grant items include:

- Training evaluated using national or state standards
- Personal protective equipment
- Equipment needed for effective response, firefighting, rescue, and emergency medical operations to enhance the public safety
- Certain modifications to facilities, and
- New vehicles

The Department of Homeland Security Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) appropriates \$319.5 million in grant funds for the FY 2020 AFG program and anticipates 2,000 awards to be granted. The maximum grant award amount is determined by the population served by a jurisdiction and is capped at one (1) percent of total available grant funds, with a maximum award of up to \$3.55 million per jurisdiction. The maximum cost sharing portion for jurisdictions

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serving more than 1,000,000 residents is fifteen (15) percent of non-federal funds to be allocated to the AFG awarded project.

In accordance with Board of Supervisors Policy A-30, the Department is requesting authorization to apply for a grant in the amount not to exceed \$3.55 million with the maximum 15% local match of \$532,500 allocated from the departments operating budget. The NOFO further stipulates the application deadline is February 12, 2021 and the projected period of performance for awarded grants is from May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2023.

The Fire Departments grant request will include funding for operational and safety equipment for effective response, firefighting, rescue, and emergency medical operations, and to enhance the public safety in Riverside County. If awarded, the grant funding will enhance our dedication to protecting the health and safety of the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire related hazards in the unincorporated area.

If the Fire Department is awarded funding, we will seek acceptance of the award from the Board of Supervisors.

**Impact on Residents and Businesses**

These funds are dedicated to protecting the health and safety of the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire related hazards in the unincorporated area.

**Additional Fiscal Information**

The AFG program requires a 15% cost share match, which will be covered by funds budgeted for in the department's operating activities. There is no general fund request.

**Contract History and Price Reasonableness**

On September 13, 2019, the department was awarded \$629,173 to purchase and install Source Capture Exhaust Systems (SCES) in multiple Riverside County owned and operated fire stations in order to address the risks posed by exposure to diesel fumes. The Board of Supervisors action on March 17, 2020 (MO#3-09) authorized the acceptance of the grant and the terms of the grant are currently being performed.

On June 23, 2017, the department was awarded \$364,375 to purchase ruggedized tablets for several medic apparatuses in support of our Electronic Patient Care Reports (EPCR) program. The Board of Supervisors action on August 29, 2017 (MO#3-67) authorized the acceptance of the grant and the terms of the grant have been satisfied.

On July 6, 2015, the department was awarded \$193,360 in AFG funding to purchase four (4) Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus fill stations. The Board of Supervisors action on August 18, 2015 (MO#3-33) authorized the acceptance of the grant and the terms of the grant were satisfied.