



Item Brief

Meeting Date

December 10, 2024

Agenda Item

Discuss and consider action: Resolution No. R2024-89: M. Ingram

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BURNET, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR THE STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT

Information

The following resolution authorizes the City Manager, or designee, to apply for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant, offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

As the City of Burnet continues to grow, the Fire Department anticipates increased demands for fire and emergency response services. To meet these demands and align with national safety standards, such as NFPA 1710, the department has been exploring funding opportunities to enhance its staffing levels.

The SAFER Grant is a federal program designed to assist fire departments in increasing or maintaining staffing levels. If awarded, the grant will provide 100% funding for salaries and benefits of six Firefighter/EMTs or Firefighter/Paramedics for three years. Importantly, there is no obligation for the City to retain these positions beyond the grant period, offering flexibility to adjust staffing based on future needs.

This grant offers a significant opportunity to improve service delivery in the City's Fire Department. The additional staffing would allow for enhanced operations at Station 2, and improving response capabilities

Fiscal Impact

The application window for the SAFER Grant runs from December 15, 2024, to January 10, 2025. To maximize the chances of success, the City plans to engage a specialized grant writer at a cost of \$6,500. If the initial application is unsuccessful, the grant writer will work with FEMA to assess feasibility for resubmission in subsequent years, with potential costs for revisions estimated at \$1,000–\$1,500.

As mentioned earlier, if awarded, the grant will provide 100% funding for salaries and benefits of six Firefighter/EMTs or Firefighter/Paramedics for three years without any obligation for the City to retain these positions beyond the grant period

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of Resolution No. R2024-89 as presented.

RESOLUTION NO. R2024-89

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BURNET, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR THE STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT

WHEREAS, the City of Burnet recognizes the importance of maintaining adequate fire and emergency response services to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the City's Fire Department is preparing for future growth and seeks opportunities to enhance its staffing levels to meet expanding service demands and ensure compliance with national standards, including NFPA 1710; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant, which provides 100% funding for salaries and benefits for eligible positions for three years, with no obligation to retain funded positions beyond the grant period; and

WHEREAS, the SAFER Grant, if awarded, would enable the City to hire six Firefighter/EMTs or Firefighter/Paramedics, thereby increasing staffing at Station 2 and improving response capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the timeline for submitting the SAFER Grant application is from December 15, 2024, through January 10, 2025, requiring approval from the City Council to proceed with the application process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF BURNET, TEXAS, AS FOLLOWS:

Section One. Findings. The recitals set out above are hereby approved and incorporated herein for all purposes.

Section Two. Authorization. This resolution authorizes the City Manager, or designee, to apply for the FEMA SAFER Grant on behalf of the City of Burnet, and to engage the services of a qualified grant writer for the purpose of preparing and submitting the grant application. The City Manager, or designee, is directed to take all necessary steps to meet the grant application deadline of January 10, 2025. This included submitting all required documentation and coordinating with FEMA as needed.

Section Three. Open Meetings. It is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this resolution was passed was open to the public and that public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act.

Section Four. Effective Date. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage, and approval as prescribed by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this the 10th day of December 2024.

CITY OF BURNET, TEXAS

Gary Wideman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Maria Gonzales, City Secretary