

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Program

Overview of the FY 2022 SAFER Grant Program:

This grant application will be submitted requesting six (6) new hire personnel.

The grant would cover three (3) years of the salary and benefits cost for six (6) positions at the current rate.

After three years, the cost would revert to the city in FY 26-27 Budget.

The grants will not be awarded until late September 2023.

This grant will be a step in the process of moving forward to meet response and staffing needs.

Purpose of the Safer Grant:

The purpose of the SAFER Program is to award grants directly to eligible fire departments and to assist local fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities for response to emergencies. Using a competitive process that is informed by fire service subject-matter experts, grants are awarded to applicants whose requests best address the priorities of the SAFER Program. The SAFER Program priorities focus on improving the department's abilities to meet National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards more closely regarding the ability to assemble an appropriate number of firefighting personnel at an emergency scene in a timely manner. The NFPA 1720 outlines the need for 16 personnel in your first alarm assignment on scene within eight (8) minutes and your first arriving crew with firefighting capabilities on scene under four (4) minutes.

Application Process and Evaluation Criteria:

SAFER Program applications are reviewed through a multi-phase process. All complete and eligible applications are electronically pre-scored and ranked based on the substance of the application relative to the established funding priorities. Applications will then undergo further evaluation by a peer review panel, comprised of individuals from the fire service and volunteer firefighter interest organizations. A minimum of three peer review panelists evaluates the applications using the narrative statement, answers to general questions, and answers to activity-specific questions. Each application is judged on its merits against established criteria and is not compared to other applications. Applications most consistent with the established SAFER Program funding priorities that score the highest and are determined to be in the "competitive range" will undergo a Technical Review by the FEMA Program Office, which will assess the request with respect to costs, quantities, feasibility, eligibility, and recipient responsibility.