

Fire Department

To: Finance Committee & Mayor McFarland

From: Chief Reynen

Date: 11/19/2024

Subject: Assistance to Firefighter Grant Opportunity

Background

The Fire Department has identified annual training goals for 2025, in which includes NFPA 1403-Standard for Live Fire Training, Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator (CEVO), and Fire Department Incident Safety Officer Course.

Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) is federally funded through Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) This year's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) outlines training as the focus, of which the courses listed above are noted as "high" priority for funding. Tuition, textbooks and wages to attend the courses are covered under the AFG NOFO with a 10% cost share requirement. This grant will cover 90% of the identified costs to the agency.

NFPA 1403 Training is required for instructors conducting live fire trainings to ensure safe training operations. Facility live fire training has an impact in safe and effective fire department operations as well as a requirement in insurance rating through third party agencies. The department intends to host this training at the new station and is writing the grant to cover tuition cost for the minimum 15 students.

The department identified Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator for Ambulances and Fire apparatus (CEVO), has a proven outcome in risk reduction efforts while improving driver awareness during emergency operations. to safe vehicle operations. Most of our department staff have under 4 years of full-time experience and investing in them for safe emergency vehicle operation training will work to reduce accidents. CEVO 4 & 5 (Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator for Ambulances and Fire apparatus)

Incident Safety Officer is a 40-hour certification course that provides training to increase awareness from a safety perspective during emergency incidents including Fire, EMS, Technical Rescue, and Hazardous Materials scenes, and report to the IC the status of conditions, hazards, and risks present. This course will also cover accident investigation and review procedures as well as how to develop and participate in a post-incident analysis and additional workplace safety programs.

We have identified reputable sources for the training and outlined a budgetary cost for the programs requested.

- NFPA 1403 Training - 9 Watertown staff certified
- CEVO 4 & CEVO 5 Train the Trainer - 6 Watertown staff certified
- Incident Safety Officer – 3 Watertown staff certified

Total Cost of the Grant request: \$50,862.18

10% Cost share for Watertown Fire Department: \$5,086.22

The department has funding available in the training budget to cover the 10% cost share to accomplish this task.

Budget Goal

3. Supports employee retention and growth, while also evaluating operations and the associate staffing.

5. Maintains a safe and health community, with an eye toward future needs and trends.

Financial Impact

10% of overall grant cost as outlined above. \$5,086.22

Recommendation

Motion to approve for the Fire Department to apply for the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) for FY2024.

2024 Operational Goal

Meet 2025 annual training goals set internally and encourage employee growth and development by setting a solid foundation based on training.