

## Fire Department

To: Finance Committee  
From: Chief Tanya Reynen  
Date: September 29, 2025  
Subject: Informational Update- Financial Awards

### Background

The Fire Department has recently received two significant financial awards that will support training, equipment, and operational readiness:

#### 1. FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)

- **Award Amount: \$68,878.09**
- **Local Cost Share (10%): \$6,887.81**
- **Total Project Funding: \$75,765.90**

This federal award through FEMA's AFG program provides 90% funding support with a 10% required contribution from the City. The award will directly support essential training for NFPA 1403 Training, Incident Safety Officer certification for 3 personnel and CEVO Ambulance and CEVO Engine Driver train the trainer certification for 6 personnel. These three training opportunities bring the department in step with national safety standards and departmental training objectives.

#### 2. Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) Funds

- **2023 Allocation: \$63,921.73**

GEMT reimbursements provide supplemental funding to offset the cost of emergency medical transportation services for Medicaid patients. These funds are returned to the City to support ambulance operations and enhance EMS financial sustainability. This is a re-occurring grant that the department can write for to support the department.

**\*\*Additional funding for 2024 allocation is *estimated* at \$186,XXX. Finance will be updated once this is confirmed.**

### Budget Goal

The Fire Department had internal goals to achieve the named certifying fire and driver training programs which are now possible from the AFG Grant. The department seeks funding for the

Standard of Cover/Strategic Plan/Station study that could be funded with the GEMT funds if the city allows.

## Financial Impact

These two funding sources provide a combined **net financial benefit of \$125,911.82** to the City of Watertown, after accounting for the required local match to FEMA AFG. Both awards represent meaningful reinvestments into our fire and EMS operations, ensuring that staff have the training, resources, and financial support necessary to continue serving the community effectively.

- FEMA AFG requires a City cost share of \$6,887.81. Which is already part of the department training budget.
- GEMT funds provide direct revenue of \$63,921.73 with no additional City obligation.

## Recommendation

None, this memo is informational only.