

## Information Item

**Date:** February 13, 2023

**To:** Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

**From:** Patrice Toney, Assistant City Manager  
William L. Mayo, Fire Chief

**Subject:**  
Information on Application for Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)

**Strategic Focus Area:** Safe and Secure Community

**Strategic Objective:** No

**Strategic Plan Action Item:** No

**Key Work Item:** No



Winston-Salem Fire Department (WSFD) is applying for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to fund the replacement of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). The department purchased approximately 80% of the SCBA currently utilized in 2014, with the remaining balance purchased in 2015. Since the purchase of the units the National Fire Protection Association has published two revisions for the design and maintenance of SCBA. In 2018 the standard changed the buddy-breathing connection to a rectus fitting, making it the standard throughout the industry. The connection allows firefighters to share their breathing air in the event an individual is trapped or runs out of air. Our current manufacturer does not make an adapter to allow SCBA purchased before 2018 to be connected to newer SCBA that meets the current standard. This is a firefighter safety issue not only for WSFD but for our automatic/mutual aid partners. Also, our warranty period runs out in 2024 and the department will see a significant increase in repair costs.

It is estimated that the equipment and will cost \$3,200,000. The 2022 AFG guidance requires a 10% match for municipalities with Winston-Salem's population; a local match requirement would not exceed \$320,000.

The application period runs from January 2, 2023 through February 10, 2023, and notifications of award are expected in the summer of 2023. If funding is awarded, a budget amendment will be brought to City Council for approval.