

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: September 5, 2017

To: The City Manager

From: Assistant City Manager Ben Rowe & Fire Chief William L. Mayo

Council Action Requested:

Consideration of Items Pertaining to a 2016 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant from the Department of Homeland Security:

- a. Resolution accepting a 2016 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant
- b. Amendments to the FY17-18 Budget Ordinances to appropriate the federal funds and local funding.

Strategic Focus Area: Safe and Secure Community

Strategic Objective: Improve Public Safety Service Quality

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

The Winston-Salem Fire Department has been awarded a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant from the Department of Homeland Security. The intent of the grant is to assist career fire departments with improving their compliance with the National Fire Protection Association’s 1710 *Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments*. NFPA 1710 recommends that the initial 15 firefighters to arrive on the scene of a moderate risk residential fire should travel no more than eight minutes, 90% of the time. WSFD is accomplishing this 56% of the time.

The SAFER Grant provides funding to hire 15 (five per platoon) new firefighters for three years. The additional personnel would be placed on Engine 3 (Liberty St.), Engine 4 (MLK, Jr. Blvd.), Engine 11 (Waughtown St.), Truck 18 (Peace Haven Rd.), and Rescue 1 (Arbor Rd.). These five fire companies respond to two-thirds of all building fires.

Committee Action:

Committee	Finance 10/09/2017	Action	Deferred to Public Safety Approval
	Public Safety 10/9/2017		
For	Council Members:	Against	Opposed: Council Member MacIntosh
	Taylor, Burke, and Larson		

Remarks:

The Fire Department previously applied for SAFER grants in 2014 and 2015; however, the department was not awarded funding for those years. Those grants did not require a local match and provided funding for a two-year period. The terms for the 2016 SAFER grant have changed, now requiring a local match and extending the grant period to three years. The match requirement will be 25% for the first year, 25% for the second year, and 65% for the third year. The federal contribution to the proposed project over the three-year period of performance is \$1,306,470, and the local match is approximately \$813,000. The City's contribution can be spread over four fiscal years: \$70,000 in FY17-18, \$176,000 in FY18-19, \$286,000 in FY19-20, and \$281,000 in FY20-21. There would also be approximately \$90,000 required for training and equipment in FY17-18.

If funding for the local match is approved, it is recommended that the Fire Department and Office of Performance and Accountability measure the effect of the 15 additional personnel on NFPA 1710 compliance through June 30, 2021. City staff will establish baseline data for key performance measures such as response time and confinement of fires to the room of origin for the areas to be served by the additional positions. Based upon the impact of the additional personnel, a recommendation will be made at the end of the grant period to either maintain the increase in authorized staffing and keep the firefighters on the roster or delete the positions and absorb them through attrition.

The attached resolution authorizes acceptance of the 2016 SAFER Grant as well as the City's commitment of the local match. The resolution also notes the City's intent to measure the impact of the grant-funded positions during the grant period. This Council Action also includes an amendment to the FY17-18 budget.