

Information Item

Date: December 13, 2021

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 to the Department of Homeland Security for an 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 is applying for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to fund the development of a Blue Card Command training facility. Blue Card Command is a training and certification system that provides incident commanders with a set of standard practices for managing and deploying resources at emergencies. The department has been working to certify personnel since January, and currently has 71 officers either certified or enrolled in the program. If awarded, AFG funding would allow the department to purchase licensing and equipment to train additional instructors and outfit a simulation lab, with the goal of being a regional facility for fire departments in Forsyth and surrounding counties. Kernersville Fire-Rescue has already adopted Blue Card. When all agencies operate within the same incident command structure, the sharing of resources and automatic aid responses become nearly seamless. Regional projects also qualify for higher funding priority.

It is estimated that the equipment and subscriptions will cost \$564,750. The 2021 AFG guidance requires a 10% match for municipalities with Winston-Salem's population; a local match requirement would not exceed \$56,475.

The application period runs from November 8 through December 17, 2021, and notifications of award are expected in the spring of 2022. If funding is awarded, a budget amendment will be brought to City Council for approval.