

Resolution #20-0004

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**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FOR AN ASSISTANCE TO
FIREFIGHTERS GRANT**

WHEREAS, the Fire Department seeks authorization to apply for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) from the Department of Homeland Security to purchase washers and dryers, as well as turnout gear extractors and dryers for the stations that need this equipment; and,

WHEREAS, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has concluded that, compared to the general population, firefighters are more likely to face a cancer diagnosis and more likely to die from cancer as a result of their exposure to carcinogenic products of combustions in the modern fire environment; and

WHEREAS, to minimize the time firefighters are exposed to carcinogens, firefighters are provided two sets of structural firefighting gear and they are not available for additional requests for service until their apparatus and equipment have been decontaminated and they have had a shower, dressed in a clean uniform, and put a clean and dry set of turnout gear in service; and

WHEREAS, contaminated turnout gear must be transported back and forth between stations that do not have gear washers and those that do, requiring more handling of dirty gear, and unnecessarily moving fire companies out of their assigned territories. Without washers and dryers at all stations, personnel are either traveling to fire stations that have these appliances on their off time, are using public laundromats, or are washing contaminated uniforms at home, which are not recommended as safe or appropriate practices for decontaminating uniforms. Firefighters also encounter bed bugs with increasing frequency during performance of their duties, and there are multiple instances each year where fire trucks and stations have to be treated. The accepted way to kill bed bugs in clothing is to place items in a clothes dryer and subject them to high heat for 30

minutes. Having clothes dryers in all fire stations allows for immediate laundering of infested uniforms and eliminates the potential for fire personnel to take bed bugs home; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that equipment and appliances will cost \$192,000 and utility upgrades will cost \$318,000. While the 2019 AFG guidance is not available, the 2018 guidance required a 10% match for municipalities the size of Winston-Salem. This request is for authorization to apply for an AFG when the application period opens, with a local match requirement not to exceed \$76,500.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Winston-Salem, upon the recommendation of the Public Safety Committees, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to apply for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters' Grant with a local math not to exceed \$76,500, and execute agreements and documents necessary to implement the grant.