

Information Item

Date: March 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:
Presentation on Application for Fire Prevention and Safety Grant

Strategic Focus Area: Safe and Secure Community

Strategic Objective: Yes

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



The Winston-Salem Fire Department (WSFD) is applying for a FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grant to fund each of the three activities listed below. FEMA may choose to fund one or more of the proposed activities. For each activity funded, grant guidance requires a five-percent match.

- (1) **Community Risk Reduction:** A community risk assessment identified areas of our community that are at the highest risk of fire and are affected by other factors influencing the wellbeing and safety of the residents: education, disability, income, net worth, median income, and poverty levels. The WSFD proposes a program based on one in South Carolina, which will be known as “*Get Alarmed, Winston-Salem!*.” The program will focus on life safety education and smoke alarm installation. The estimated cost of equipment and materials for this program is \$40,651. The anticipated cost match would be \$2,033.
- (2) **Code Enforcement:** There are opportunities to improve the efficiency of the WSFD’s fire code enforcement personnel through the purchase and use of mobile computing technology. The WSFD intends to equip each of its Fire Code Officials with a tablet device like those currently used in Planning and Development Services. Each tablet will provide the Fire Code Official with immediate access to the State’s technical codes and industry standards. These provisions will enable Fire Code Officials to document their inspections in real time. The estimated cost of equipment and materials is \$49,504. The anticipated cost match would be \$2,476.
- (3) **Fire and Arson Investigation:** The fire investigation capabilities of the WSFD would be vastly improved by adopting the use of systems and equipment that have become industry standards. These include a three-dimensional camera system to capture measurements and imagery at fire scenes and to recreate those scenes for analysis and testimony. Through acquiring this system, fire investigators can operate more safely and

effectively, leading to greater successes in identifying and mitigating the causes fires. The estimated cost of equipment and materials for these enhancements is \$62,145. The anticipated cost match would be \$3,108.

If all three activities are awarded, the total estimated cost of equipment and materials is \$152,300, and the anticipated cost match would be \$7,615.

The application period closes March 31, 2023, and notifications of award are expected in the summer and fall of 2023. If grant funding is awarded, a budget amendment will be brought to the City Council for approval.