

CITY OF YUBA CITY
STAFF REPORT

Date: March 2, 2021
To: Honorable Mayor & Members of the City Council
From: Fire Department
Presentation By: Jesse Alexander, Fire Chief

Summary

Subject: 2020 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant

Recommendation: Authorize the Fire Department to submit an application to the Department of Homeland Security for consideration of funding under the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant for the hiring of nine limited-term firefighters.

Fiscal Impact: The SAFER Grant covers 100% of the "fully burdened" salary and benefits of a Firefighter II position at \$125,500 annually per Firefighter, or \$1,129,500 annually for nine (9) Firefighters. Under the Fire Department's proposal to apply for nine (9) positions, the grant request will be for \$3,388,500 for the three-year grant period. Under this year's SAFER Grant, there is no local match required during the grant's three-year performance period. Overtime, recruitment, and training costs are not reimbursable.

Purpose:

To maintain current Fire Department staffing levels.

Background:

In 2005, 2007, 2014, and 2017 the Fire Department received grant funding under the Department of Homeland Security SAFER Grant. With the 2005 & 2007 SAFER Grant funds, the department hired three limited-term full-time firefighters under each grant to bring the constant staffing levels up to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) minimum standards.

The City Council authorized the submission of an application for the 2014 SAFER Grant as a means of maintaining staffing levels due to the result of budget cuts in previous years that froze six full-time firefighter positions. Under the 2014 and 2017 grant awards, the department hired nine limited-term firefighters. The firefighters were utilized to increase staffing levels on apparatus, which reduced response times, provided additional resources for simultaneous calls for service, and enhanced NFPA compliance.

The current grant will expire on December 9, 2021, and the funding for the existing nine limited-term firefighter positions will cease.

Analysis:

The 2020 SAFER Grant has no cost share or match, or position cost limit. The proposed nine grant-funded positions will be at Firefighter I, paid at the Firefighter I salary, and would remain at the rate until eligible to move to Firefighter II rank and salary. The hiring of these nine limited-term firefighters will allow the Yuba City Fire Department to maintain our current staffing levels of five Fire Stations and a minimum of 3-person Engine Companies. Allowing the Fire Department to meet the increased demands for service, provide additional resources for simultaneous calls, and enhance the department's NFPA compliance. The grant does not require the City's commitment to hiring the grant-funded positions at the end of the three-years. The deadline for submitting the grant application is March 12, 2021, and awards are announced on May 24, 2021.

Fiscal Impact:

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Alternatives:

Do not authorize the submission of an application under the SAFER Grant program.

Recommendation:

Authorize the Fire Department to submit an application to the Department of Homeland Security for consideration of funding under the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant for the hiring of nine limited-term firefighters.

Prepared By:

/s/ Jesse Alexander

Jesse Alexander
Fire Chief

Submitted By:

/s/ Dave Vaughn

Dave Vaughn
City Manager

Reviewed By:

Finance

City Attorney

SM

SLC by email