



City of Woodland

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: March 3, 2009

SUBJECT: Accept Grant Funding on Behalf of the Woodland Fire Department

Report in Brief

The Woodland Fire Department (WFD) has been working diligently to secure grants whenever possible to further its mission and to meet the needs of the county's emergency communications as it relates to fire service agencies. Recently, the WFD was notified that three grant applications were successful and acceptance of these grants needs to be approved by City Council before staff can move forward with the respective projects.

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the acceptance of the grant awards for three projects and appropriate \$91,206 in revenues and expenditures to implement the programs as described herein.

Background

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, through the **Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)**, awards grant funding each year to each state that is further distributed to each county within the state on a per-capita basis. In Yolo County, the Yolo County Office of Emergency Services administers the distributions to the first responder agencies (i.e., law, fire, EMS, and health) within Yolo County, also known as the "operational area". The WFD has applied for and received grant funding through this program. These are reimbursement grants that do not require a cost-share match by the local agency, or any long-term financial commitment beyond the original scope of the grant (i.e., purchase equipment, training, etc).

Fireman's Fund Insurance Company (Fireman's Fund®), through their **Heritage Program**SM, awards millions of dollars in grants annually to fire departments and fire and burn prevention non-profits for needed equipment, training, and community education programs. At the end of 2008, the Pacific Interstate Insurance Brokers selected the Woodland Fire Department to receive Heritage ProgramSM grant funds to purchase needed rescue equipment.

FEMA's **Assistance to Firefighter's Grant Program (AFG)** awards grants to fire departments to enhance their ability to protect the public and fire service personnel from fire and related hazards. In early 2008 the WFD agreed to submit a "regional" grant to the AFG requesting money to replace

and upgrade critical fire communications equipment for the Yolo Emergency Communications Agency (YECA). On behalf of YECA and the county fire service agencies, WFD agreed to submit an application under the name of City of Woodland Fire Department for this purpose. Staff has since received award notification that the grant was funded on February 20.

Discussion

With Council's approval to accept the following grant funds, the respective equipment will be purchased and the respective programs or training will be implemented as described below.

U.S. Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) - \$143,755:

- **\$3,500** for the purchase of rescue equipment.
- **\$70,000** to hire a consultant to re-write the Emergency Operations Plans for the cities of Woodland, Davis, West Sacramento, and Winters.
- **\$60,000** for the purchase of portable radios for all of the fire departments within Yolo County that need them due to recent changes in the band-width of the primary fire channel in the County by the FCC. This award has already been used to leverage \$10,000 in funds from Cal-Fire and another \$10,000 from the Yolo County Fire Chief's Association for this project. While the Woodland FD requested these funds for the county fire service, the West Sacramento FD has agreed to take the lead on this by purchasing the radios "up front" and then seeking reimbursement. The Woodland FD is involved by name only.
- **\$7,000** to provide Incident Command System (ICS) training for the ICS-300 and ICS-400 course curriculums to local emergency responders and EOC staff.
- **\$3,255** to provide training that will enhance our response to a terrorism incident. The Hazardous Materials Incident Safety Officer course and the Hazardous Materials Incident Command course will both be offered for local agencies with this money.

The HSGP grant funds are direct reimbursement grants. With the exception of the portable radio purchase, the City of Woodland will make the purchase up front and then receive reimbursement through the program. The grant for \$60,000 to purchase portable radios will actually be administered and managed by the West Sacramento Fire Department in an effort to ease the WFD's administrative burden for requesting this grant which will benefit their department as well as the other fire agencies in the county. **Therefore, acceptance of this grant will require the appropriation of revenues and expenditures of \$83,755.** There will be some administrative time to manage these grants, however the actual cost would be very limited and certainly worth the effort. Since the above activities are limited to training and equipment, there are no continuous costs that would generate a burden to the General Fund.

Fireman's Fund®) Heritage ProgramSM :

- **\$7,451** to purchase and train on new rescue stabilization struts to be used for the stabilization of over-turned vehicles, or vehicles on their side, before occupant extrication is conducted or rescuers are placed inside the vehicle.

Acceptance of this grant will require the appropriation of revenues and expenditures of **\$7,451** to purchase the equipment described above. The City has already received the payment.

FEMA's Assistance to Firefighter's Grant Program (AFG):

- **\$1,003,031** to purchase county-wide emergency fire communications equipment for YECA. This money requires a 20% match (\$802,425 Federal Share, \$200,606 local share). YECA and Yolo County will make sure the local match is paid and that the scope of this grant is completed within the time element of the grant.

As stated previously, the Woodland Fire Department is acting as the lead agency for YECA. The City has no financial commitment for the advance purchase of the grant funded equipment or the local match. Therefore, acceptance of this grant does not require the City Council to appropriate revenues or expenditures.

Fiscal Impact

Acceptance of the grants as described herein will require the appropriation of revenues and expenditures totaling \$91,206. Of that amount, the City will be providing \$83,755 in advance of the reimbursement by the Department of Homeland Security. The typical reimbursement process is 60-90 days and this will not present a burden to the City as the actual reimbursements will be in limited increments as work progresses.

Public Contact

Posting of the City Council agenda.

Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the acceptance of the grant awards for three projects and appropriate \$91,206 in revenues and expenditures to implement the programs as described herein.

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