

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

**FROM: CF Fire Department & CF EMS, Fire Chief Brice Miller & EMS
Chief Tim Malchow**

**SUBJECT: Authorize Submittal of ARMER Equipment Grant Program
Application**

MEETING DATE: June 18, 2024

BACKGROUND

The CF Fire Department/EMS needs to upgrade/replace their current radios for the entire department. The existing radios are at their 'end of life' and they can no longer get parts for them. Any radios that are deemed 'out of commission' are kept to use and repurpose for parts to fix any radios that are still operable. More importantly, the departments will no longer be able to communicate with law enforcement due to the encryption-capable radios that will be upgraded by the end of 2024.

The Department of Public Safety Emergency Communication Networks division is requesting proposals for the 2024-2026 Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) Equipment Grant Program to support the purchase and upgrade of radio equipment for local, Tribal, and state agencies. \$4,000,000 is available to fund approximately 100 awards, estimated to average \$40,000 each to eligible applicants however there is no cap on the amount that agencies can request. The quote for the new radios is \$8000/radio and in order to begin converting to the encrypted capable radios, the two departments would like to apply for 12 radios in order to outfit both departments our request will up to \$96,000.00

The ARMER program requires a 5% cash match which would be an estimated (\$4,800.00) the two departments will collectively provide. Applications are due June 28, 2024.

The CFFD has formed a sub-committee to focus on additional grants funds and has also been assisted by CEDA Representative Laura Qualey that has offered guidance on the grant process and has been uncovering other grants that may be applicable to the CFFD/EMS's equipment needs.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

Authorize staff to submit a competitive application for the ARMER Grant Program to fund (partially fund) the purchase of new radio equipment for the CFFD/EMS.