

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL.
FROM: Laura Qualey, Economic Development Authority
SUBJECT: Request for Permission to Apply for Assistance to Firefighters Grant
MEETING DATE: December 17th, 2024

Background:

The Cannon Falls Fire Department and EMS currently rely on aging and obsolete handheld radio equipment that is increasingly difficult to maintain and no longer meets the demands of modern emergency response. Upgrading our communications infrastructure is critical to ensure the safety of both our first responders and the residents they serve.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant program offers an opportunity to secure federal funding from FEMA for essential firefighting and emergency response equipment. The grant requires a local match of 5%, which would need to be covered by the Cannon Falls Fire Department and EMS budgets.

Financial Implications:

The total estimated cost for the new radios is approximately \$331,245. If awarded the grant, FEMA would cover 95% of this cost, amounting to \$314,683. The City's 5% match would be \$16,562 (\$11,041 CFFD; \$5,521 EMS), which could be allocated from budgeted equipment funds or donations received. The CFFD/EMS did receive \$50,000 from the Department of Public Safety for new encrypted radios for the apparatus' earlier in 2024.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the City Council approve this request to apply for the AFG grant. The application deadline is December 20th, 2024, and timely approval is necessary to ensure submission. If awarded, this grant will significantly enhance the capabilities of our Fire Department and EMS while minimizing the financial burden on the City.

Action Requested:

1. Approve the request to apply for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant.
2. Authorize Laura Qualey, Community & Business Development Specialist to complete and submit the grant application on behalf of the Cannon Falls Fire Department and EMS.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. I am available to address any questions or provide additional information as needed.

****Attachments:****

- Overview of Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program
- Cost estimates for new radios

Goals, Objectives, and Priorities of the AFG

Goal: Enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards.

Objectives: Provide critically needed resources that equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, outfit responders with compliant personal protective equipment to increase responders' physical protection against hazards during incident response, provide funding to retrofit or modify facilities to protect personnel from known health hazards, acquire emergency response vehicles, design and implement health, wellness and resiliency programs that prepare responders for incident response, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience.

Line #	Item Number	Description	Qty	List Price	Disc %	Sale Price	Ext. Sale Price
1j	QA09000AA	ADD: DIGITAL TONE SIGNALING	1	\$165.00	28.0%	\$118.80	\$118.80
1k	H869BZ	ENH: MULTIKEY	1	\$363.00	28.0%	\$261.36	\$261.36
1l	Q15AK	ADD: AES/DES-XL/DES-OFB ENCRYPTION AND ADP	1	\$879.00	28.0%	\$632.88	\$632.88
1m	QA09113AB	ADD: BASELINE RELEASE SW	1	\$0.00	0.0%	\$0.00	\$0.00
2	NNTN8844A	CHARGER, MULTI-UNIT, IMPRES 2, 6-DISP, NA/LA-PLUG, ACC USB CHGR	1	\$1,705.20	45.02%	\$937.50	\$937.50
3	NNTN8860A	CHARGER, SINGLE-UNIT, IMPRES 2, 3A, 115VAC, US/NA	1	\$186.50	39.68%	\$112.50	\$112.50
4	PMMN4099CL	AUDIO ACCESSORY- REMOTE SPEAKER MICROPHONE,IP68 REMOTE SPEAKER MICROPHONE,3.5MM,UL	1	\$142.56	27.0%	\$104.07	\$104.07

Grand Total
\$7,361.91(USD)


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