



**Northwest Fire District
Governing Board**
13535 North Marana Main Street
Marana, Arizona

SCHEDULED

MEMORANDUM NO. {{item.tracking_number}}

Date:	March 26, 2024
To:	Governing Board
From:	Sandy Russell, Analyst
Division:	Finance Services
Type of Action:	Formal Action/Motion
Strategic Plan Goals:	Create greater financial efficiencies and ensure financial sustainability and responsibility
Agenda Item:	Adoption of Resolution No. 2024-006 Approving the Retroactive Submittal of a Grant Application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program for Funding to Purchase and Replace 123 Sets of Wildland Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Coats and Pants in the Amount of \$103,467.60

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution No. 2024-006.

MOTION:

Move to adopt Resolution No. 2024-006 approving the retroactive submittal of a grant application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program for funding to purchase and replace 123 sets of wildland personal protective equipment (PPE) coats and pants in the amount of \$103,467.60.

DISCUSSION:

The decision to apply for this grant application was identified in a timeframe which did not allow for prior Board approval as the application deadline was March 8, 2024. As required in the District's Grant Policy, should application time constraints limit prior Board approval, temporary approval to submit the application can be obtained from the appropriate Assistant Fire Chief, with formal Board approval required at the next scheduled Board meeting.

The District currently utilizes two main types of personal protective gear (PPE) when responding to fires, wildland gear (for wildland fires) and turnout gear (for structure fires). The District's current compliment of wildland gear was purchased in 2006 with AFG equipment grant funding.

The 2023 AFG Notice of Funding reports wildland PPE as a high priority eligible item for grant funding consideration. The wildland gear purchased in 2006 is worn, outdated, has exceeded its useful life expectancy, and needs to be replaced. Per the National Fire

Protection Association (NFPA) 1851, PPE items are considered noncompliant if they are 10 years of age or older from the date of manufacturing. Many advancements in PPE have been made since 2006 including fabric composition, weight, and multifunctionality. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, in 2020, “only 4% of all reported fire department runs were fire related”.

Our Uniform Work Group and Safety Committee identified options to replace the current wildland gear with dual certified gear meeting the need of both wildland and non-structural rescue situations. The benefit of dual certified gear is the ability to reduce the time firefighters are utilizing turnout gear, thus reducing exposure to per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS exposure has been identified as a key factor in the development of cancer within the fire service community. Another benefit of new gear is the advanced technology in lightweight fabric. This provides lighter and cooler gear which reduces physical fatigue and heat stress while increasing mobility. The Committee provided the approved PPE gear recommendation to Procurement and three competitive bids were obtained.

The District requires 265 sets of wildland gear in order to provide gear to active responders and maintain sufficient stock for repairs and sizing issues. We were able to request 123 sets of wildland replacement gear in this application. If the District receives this award, there is sufficient grant fund balance available to purchase additional sets of wildland gear so that uniform consistency throughout the District is maintained.

ALTERNATIVES:

No alternatives recommended.

Fiscal Impact

FISCAL YEAR: 24/25

BUDGETED Y/N: Yes

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$9,406.15

FISCAL IMPACT: This grantor requires a 10% match, which is available in Grant Fund balance. The total federal portion of the award is \$94,061.45. The total District match obligation is \$9,406.15. The total project amount requested in the application is \$103,467.60.

Attachments

Resolution 2024-006
2023 AFG Application