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## Regular Council Meeting

2022 JAN 25 P 3:46

January 27, 2022

CITY OF FRESNO  
CITY CLERK

# FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



## Information Packet

### ITEM(S)

#### File ID 22-145, 1-I

Authorize the Fire Chief to apply for the 2021 SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant, deadline for submissions is February 4, 2022.

#### Contents of Supplement:

Revised Staff Report *and* 3 Year Costing for SAFER Recruitment Document

### Item(s)

#### **Supplemental Information:**

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## REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** KERRI L. DONIS, Fire Chief  
Fire Department

### **SUBJECT**

..Title

Authorize the Fire Chief to apply for the 2021 SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant, deadline for submissions is February 4, 2022.

..Body

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended Council authorize the Fire Chief to apply for the 2021 SAFER grant pursuant to the resolution passed by council on September 4, 2020.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The 2022 SAFER grant opened on January 3, 2022 and will close on February 4, 2022. Prior to submission of the application, this item is being brought before the council to ensure it remains the will of the Council to apply. With this SAFER application, the Fire Department seeks to hire twenty-four (24) firefighter recruits under the grant. The grant pays for all salaries and benefits, excluding overtime pay, for all recruits for a period of 36 months. Note: There is no requirement to retain the firefighters following the 36-month performance period.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Fresno Fire Department currently has 347 authorized sworn safety positions serving a population of 537,000 residents. This firefighter per capita rate of 0.65 members per 1,000 residents is one of the lowest in the State and country for comparable cities. The increasing population and demand for services requires the Department to expand its capacity to preserve and improve service levels. With the approval of this application, the Department would increase the number of members' on-duty each day from 95 to 102, adding a 4<sup>th</sup> firefighter to six apparatus and opening a new 2-person Medical Squad; increasing the Department's ability to meet the challenges of responding to 47,000 calls for service each year with our growing population. Should council approve this grant, adding 24 new members, the per capita firefighter ratio per thousand residents would be .69. The state average is .82 firefighters per thousand residents.

Under the grant, the Fire Department intends to hold a 16-week drill school in August/September 2022. Recruits for the drill school would be hired through an open general population recruitment, casting a wider net for a pool of applicants. General population recruitments normally require a sixteen (16) week drill school to ensure adequate training is received.

Once the recruits are ready for service, the department intends to add a 4<sup>th</sup> firefighter to six (6) engine companies, and open a new (becoming the department's fourth) Medical Squad furthering the Department's ability to meet NFPA 1710 industry standards of having 4-0 staffed apparatus, improved response times and effective firefighting forces for emergency calls for service.

Currently, members in a 3-0 staffed company cannot make entry until a second company arrives with additional firefighters. However, with a 4-0 staffed company, two members can immediately make entry to a structure without the delay of the next arriving apparatus. In many fire emergencies every second can be critical. This staffing improvement would provide for an additional six (6) fire engines to have 4-0 staffing, meeting the “Two-in-Two-out” firefighter safety requirement and result in 18 of the Department’s 20 engines to be staffed with 4-0 staffing. This would improve the Department’s ability to meet the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 1710 standard regarding appropriate apparatus staffing, which states, *“Personnel assigned to the initial arriving company shall have the capability to implement an initial rapid intervention crew (IRIC).”*

Adding an additional Medical Squad will improve emergency responses to medical emergencies, while keeping our larger apparatus more readily available for fire-related and rescue emergencies. The approval of this SAFER grant application will result in significant improvements in responding to all emergency incidents within the City of Fresno.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS**

This item is not a project as defined by CEQA.

## **LOCAL PREFERENCE**

Local preference was not implemented because this item is a re-appropriation of an existing project.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There will be no Fiscal Impact in Fiscal Year 22. Costs will commence in Fiscal Year 2023. A cost schedule accompanies this report detailing the 3-year expected fiscal impacts to the General Fund. Net of grant reimbursements, the fiscal impacts to the General Fund will be as follows: Fiscal Year 2023 - \$1,167,413; Fiscal Year 2024 - \$680,821; Fiscal Year 2025 - \$667,664.

**Attachment:** 3 Year Costing for SAFER Recruitment

FRESNO FIRE DEPARTMENT - 3 YEAR COSTING FOR SAFER RECRUITMENT - 16 Week School, Starting July 1, 2022

<b>DRILL SCHOOL</b>	16 Wk Drill Sch 7/1/22
Drill School for Attrition and 4 FF on 5 apparatus, FYI staffing	
Tot Labor + 16 wk Drill July 1, 2022	1,234,162
Less SAFER Reimb	-547,935
Net Labor Cost	686,228

Cost of Program after 8 week drill School is completed		Remaining 36 wks in FY23	FY24	FY25	3-year Total
<b>Additional Staffing - 4th FF on 6 Apparatus</b>					
FF	18	1,489,710	2,220,060	2,298,823	6,008,593
Total Labor before SAFER		1,489,710	2,220,060	2,298,823	6,008,593
Less SAFER		-1,219,951	-1,830,408	-1,909,171	-4,959,530
Net Labor		269,759	389,652	389,652	1,049,063
					0
Total Cost		269,759	389,652	389,652	1,049,063

<b>Medical Squad</b>					
FF	3	248,285	370,010	383,137	1,001,432
FFS	3	324,192	485,695	485,695	1,295,581
Total Labor		572,477	855,705	868,832	2,297,014
Less SAFER		-406,650	-610,136	-636,390	-1,653,177
Net Labor		165,827	245,569	232,442	643,837
Etimated Squad Lease		45,600	45,600	45,600	136,800
Total Cost		211,427	291,169	278,042	780,637

TOTALS for ALL PROGRAMS ABOVE	Drill Sch Only	Rem FY23	FY24	FY25	3 yr Tot
Total Costs witout SAFER	1,234,162	2,107,787	3,121,365	3,213,255	9,676,568
Less SAFER	-547,935	-1,626,601	-2,440,544	-2,545,561	-7,160,641
Total Cost with SAFER	686,228	481,186	680,821	667,694	2,515,927

**Notes: Total Costs in FY23 will be the sum of the Drill School + Remainder Amount = \$1,167,413 (\$686,228 + \$481,186)**

**Ongoing Costs will approximate \$3.2 million per year after grant expires for the General Fund**

Costing Notes:			FY23	FY24	FY25
FF Extra on Apparatus and relief pool	21	Step for costing >	A-B	B-C	C-D
FFS 3 for FYI)	3	Step for costing >	F	G	G