

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM NO. 28

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Robert Ojeda, Fire Chief

THROUGH: Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

COPIES: Christopher J. Brady, Assistant City Manager; File

SUBJECT: Authorizing Application for the 2004 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

DATE: March 25, 2004

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This ordinance authorizes the Fire Department to apply for funding under the 2004 Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program administered by the United States Fire Administration (USFA). Funding will be used for Fire Officer I and II Certification, Advanced Incident Management and Communications training plus communication equipment totaling \$523,226. If selected, a City cash match of 30%, or \$156,968 would be required.

Staff recommends approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 2002, SAFD received grant funds from this program totaling \$137,648 which were used to provide basic firefighter safety training through hands-on full scale, scenario training in large square footage structures with low or zero visibility conditions. The grant funds covered the cost to provide instructors and training equipment.

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) is authorized to make funds available for Fiscal Year 2004 under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The total amount requested by the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) is \$523,226. A City cash match of \$156,968 would be required if the grant funding is received.

Funds will be utilized to provide advanced training for firefighter safety. Officers will participate in tabletop scenarios and receive in-depth instruction on establishing command, sizing-up an incident, and mock emergency communication. All firefighters will receive classroom and hands-on training on various topics to include communication skills and techniques to maximize equipment familiarization. Additionally, 485 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) mask/radio interface units and an Incident Management Training System (IMS) with Accountability software will be purchased. The IMS will be used by all fire Captains and Chief Officers to participate in a computer based Incident Management scenario training utilizing the NFPA 1561 Emergency Services Incident

Management System. This drill will test, evaluate, and provide feedback to the participants on decision-making and provide general IMS familiarization.

The goal of this grant is to enable the San Antonio Fire Department to improve the decision-making ability of initial responders, fire ground communications and the ability to manage routine and large-scale emergencies. These target areas were identified in a need assessment during full-scale scenario training conducted in FY 2003.

Grant awards are expected to be announced in September, 2004.

POLICY ANALYSIS

This ordinance continues the City's policy of seeking outside resources for the enhancement of Department programs.

FISCAL IMPACT

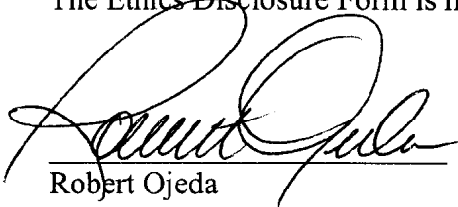
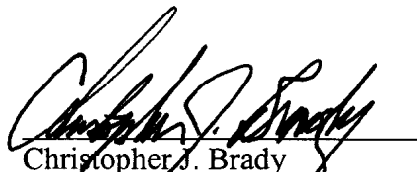
There is a financial match of 30% associated with this grant. If awarded, the City must provide a cash match totaling \$156,968.

COORDINATION

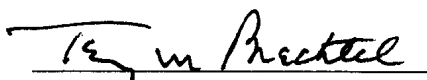
This ordinance has been coordinated with the Office of Management and Budget and Finance.

SUPPLEMENTAL COMMENTS

The Ethics Disclosure Form is not required.


Robert Ojeda
Fire Chief
Christopher J. Brady
Assistant City Manager

Approved:


Terry M. Brechtel
City Manager