

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Robert Ojeda, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: Authorizing the Acceptance of Grant Funds for the FY 2004 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program administered by the United States Fire Administration

DATE: March 31, 2005

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This ordinance authorizes the City Manager to accept grant funds for the FY 2004 Assistance to Firefighters 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. A City cash match of 30%, or \$156,968 is required.

Staff recommends approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) is authorized to make funds available under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. In FY 2003, the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) received grant funds totaling \$196,640. This amount included the \$137,648 grant award and a financial match of 30% totaling \$58,992. The SAFD utilized existing funding within their operating budget to cover the required financial match. These funds 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 SAFD reapplied in FY 2004 but was not awarded the grant.

On April 1, 2004, SAFD submitted a grant application in an effort to secure additional funding to assist the SAFD Training Division. Due to the significant budget shortfall during the FY 2005 Budget Process and based on the uncertainty of the grant award, it was determined that should the SAFD be awarded the grant, funding the cash match would be considered during the FY 2006 Budget Process. Should the City approve this ordinance, it would create a mandate for the FY 2006 Budget Process in the amount of \$156,968. The cash match would leverage an additional \$366,258. The total amount for this grant project would be \$523,226.

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.

POLICY ANALYSIS

This ordinance continues the City's policy of seeking outside resources for the enhancement of Department programs. The City has previously been awarded funding under USFA for training activities.

FISCAL IMPACT

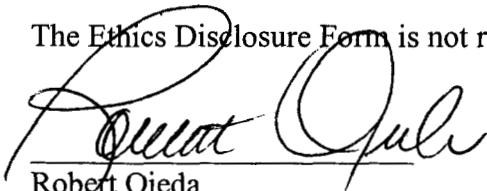
Total funding is \$523,226. This amount includes a \$366,258 grant award and a financial match of 30% set by the United States Fire Administration totaling \$156,968. If approved, funds for this match will be addressed as a mandate during the FY 2006 Budget Process.

COORDINATION

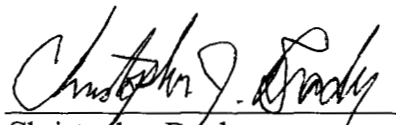
This ordinance has been coordinated with the Office of Management and Budget.

SUPPLEMENTAL COMMENTS

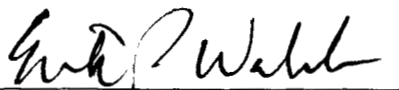
The Ethics Disclosure Form is not required.



Robert Ojeda
Fire Chief



Christopher Brady
Assistant City Manager



J. Rolando Bono
Interim City Manager