



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#14-1417

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: December 2, 2014

TITLE: Grant application for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
FY 2015 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Mobile Command
Vehicle

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission approve a motion authorizing the City Manager to apply for a Mobile Command Vehicle (MCV) via the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program from the United States Department of Homeland Security/FEMA.

Background

The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations. Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.

The staff of the Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue (FLFR) Department conducted a comprehensive risk analysis and has identified the need for a mobile command vehicle. Due to ever increasing/changing computer technology (regarding emergency response and specialized training), the ability to organize a countywide incident command structure, via a mobile command post, would increase Fire-Rescue's ability to provide effective and measurable public safety.

The traditional methods of organizing the command post by way of the front seat or rear of a Battalion Chief's vehicle, and/or the hood of a fire truck, are obsolete. Operating as a more visible fire department during incidents and/or public events requires a heightened level of expectation from our neighbors. Consequently, the community deserves, and should expect, a professional and organized emergency response.

As research indicates, a mobile incident command unit will also give emergency responders the necessary tools to make an incident command structure function with heightened precision. In consideration of the use of the Police Department's mobile command vehicle, it has been determined that the vehicle is in much need of repair with inadequate spacing for fire personnel to conduct a true unified command post.

The MCV has the capability of serving as a command post during large scale events (both planned and unplanned) and can be utilized as a regional asset to support other public safety agencies throughout the tri-county area. Additionally, the command vehicle has the capability of supporting an alternate Emergency Operations Center (EOC), should the need arise.

The grant application is for \$800,000 which includes a 10% Local Cash Match, in the amount of \$80,000.

Resource Impact

There is a positive fiscal impact to the City in the amount of \$800,000 and a 10% local cash match in the amount of \$80,000.

<i>Funds available as of 11/19/14</i>					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	INDEX NAME (Program)	OBJECT CODE/ SUB-OBJECT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Object Code)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Object Code)	PURCHASE AMOUNT
001-FD001-9129	General Fund	9129/Transfer to Misc. Grants	\$1,237,113	\$1,215,947	\$80,000
PURCHASE TOTAL ►					\$80,000

Strategic Connections:

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the Public Safety Cylinder of Excellence, specifically advancing:

Goal 10: Be a City well-prepared for and responsive to all hazards.

Objective 1: Provide and effectively communicate comprehensive emergency management planning and disaster recovery.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Ready.*

Prepared by: Battalion Chief Jo-Ann Lorber, Fire Rescue, X6809

Department Director: Fire Chief Robert F. Hoecherl