



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

**FROM:** Susan Grant, Acting City Manager

**DATE:** October 1, 2024

**TITLE:** Motion Authorizing the Acceptance of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Funds for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant to Hire 28 Firefighters \$11,386,788 with City Matching Funds for FY 2025 in the amount of \$584,085 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Commission authorizes the acceptance of the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant in the amount of \$11,386,788 to hire 28 additional firefighters with City matching funds for FY 2025 in the amount of \$584,085; and authorize the City Manager to execute any documents required to accept the funds.

**Background**

The SAFER Program is part of a comprehensive set of measures authorized by Congress and implemented by FEMA's Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Among the five basic homeland security missions noted in the DHS Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2020-2024, the SAFER Program supports the goal to Strengthen National Preparedness and Resilience. The 2022–2026 FEMA Strategic Plan creates a shared vision for the field of emergency management and sets an ambitious, yet achievable, path forward to unify and further professionalize emergency management across the country. Grant funds will be provided over a three (3) year period with matching City funds required each year.

The objective of the SAFER Program is to assist local fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities to respond to emergencies and ensure that communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue is 1 of 300 recipients selected to receive SAFER grant funding. The funding will support the hiring of 28 firefighters, increasing staffing on six additional fire rescue trucks, ensuring that each unit is staffed with a three-person team. This improvement aligns with national safety standards, enhancing the City's ability to respond quickly and effectively to both fire and medical emergencies. Acceptance of the SAFER grant will require matching expenses, including the promotion of current firefighters to lieutenants, uniforms, and equipment for the new firefighters. This funding aligns perfectly with our mission of "saving

lives and property by providing the highest level of emergency services for our community since 1912.”

**Resource Impact**

This action has a \$584,085 impact to the City’s FY 2025 operating budget for the required City matching funds. The appropriated operational cost over the three-year grant performance period is estimated at \$3.5 million. Accounts below will be utilized contingent upon the approval of Consolidated Budget Amendment CAM #24-0840.

**Source:**

<i>Funds available as of October 1, 2024</i>					
<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>COST CENTER NAME</b>	<b>CHARACTER CODE/ ACCOUNT NAME</b>	<b>AMENDED BUDGET (Character)</b>	<b>AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
10-129-9300-529-331-504-23GSAFER	FY23 Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response	Intergovernmental Revenues / Federal Grant - FEMA	N/A	N/A	\$11,386,788
10-001-0000-000-399-999	General Fund	Balances & Reserves / Appropriated Fund Balance	N/A	N/A	\$584,085
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT →</b>					<b>\$11,970,873</b>

**Use:**

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>COST CENTER NAME</b>	<b>CHARACTER CODE/ ACCOUNT NAME</b>	<b>AMENDED BUDGET (Character)</b>	<b>AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
10-129-9300-529-10-1101-23GSAFER	FY23 Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response	Salaries and Wages/ Permanent Salaries	N/A	N/A	\$6,457,528
10-129-9300-529-10-1304-23GSAFER	FY23 Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response	Salaries and Wages/ Assignment Pay	N/A	N/A	\$929,712
10-129-9300-529-10-1316-23GSAFER	FY23 Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response	Salaries and Wages/ Upgrade Pay	N/A	N/A	\$383,796

10-129-9300-529-10-1404-23GSAFER	FY23 Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response	Salaries and Wages / Clothing Allowance	N/A	N/A	\$8,400
10-129-9300-529-20-2207-23GSAFER	FY23 Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response	Fringe Benefits / Pension Police & Fire	N/A	N/A	\$1,419,908
10-129-9300-529-20-2301-23GSAFER	FY23 Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response	Fringe Benefits / Social Security/Medicare	N/A	N/A	\$595,140
10-129-9300-529-20-2404-23GSAFER	FY23 Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response	Fringe Benefits / Health Insurance	N/A	N/A	\$1,564,304
10-129-9300-529-20-2410-23GSAFER	FY23 Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response	Fringe Benefits / Worker's Compensation	N/A	N/A	\$28,000
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT →</b>					<b>\$11,386,788</b>

**Use:**

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>COST CENTER NAME</b>	<b>CHARACTER CODE/ ACCOUNT NAME</b>	<b>AMENDED BUDGET (Character)</b>	<b>AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
10-129-9300-529-10-1101-23GSAFERA	FY23 Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Matching	Salaries and Wages/ Permanent Salaries	\$53,160,353	\$53,160,353	\$269,948
10-129-9300-529-10-1304-23GSAFERA	FY23 Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Matching	Salaries and Wages/ Assignment Pay	\$53,160,353	\$53,160,353	\$36,638
10-129-9300-529-20-2301-23GSAFERA	FY23 Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Matching	Fringe Benefits / Social Security/Medicare	\$19,446,865	\$19,446,865	\$20,650

10-129-9300-529-20-2402-23GSAFERA	FY23 Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Matching	Fringe Benefits / Life Insurance	\$19,446,865	\$19,446,865	\$196
10-129-9300-529-30-3907-23GSAFERA	FY23 Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Matching	Services/Materials / Data Processing Supplies	\$4,782,327	\$4,782,327	\$5,600
10-129-9300-529-30-3940-23GSAFERA	FY23 Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Matching	Services/Materials / Safety Shoes	\$4,782,327	\$4,782,327	\$11,739
10-129-9300-529-30-3946-23GSAFERA	FY23 Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Matching	Services/Materials / Tools/Equipment	\$4,782,327	\$4,782,327	\$51,772
10-129-9300-529-30-3949-23GSAFERA	FY23 Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Matching	Services/Materials / Uniforms	\$4,782,327	\$4,782,327	\$155,568
10-129-9300-529-30-3999-23GSAFERA	FY23 Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Matching	Services/Materials / Other Supplies	\$4,782,327	\$4,782,327	\$31,974
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT →</b>					<b>\$584,085</b>

**Related CAM**

CAM #24-0840

**Strategic Connections**

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2029*, specifically advancing:

- Goal 1: Be a safe community that is proactive and responsive to risks.

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

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan* specifically advancing:

- Public Safety

**Attachment**

Exhibit 1 – Program Funding Award Letter

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Prepared by: Raymond J. Barry, Fire Captain Fire Rescue

Department Director: Stephen Gollan, Fire Chief