



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

**#18-0814**

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

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

**DATE:** August 21, 2018

**TITLE:** Motion Accepting FY17 Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the United  
States Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency  
Management Agency in the amount of \$639,756

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Commission approve a motion authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security (USDHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and to authorize the execution of any documents required to accept the additional funds between FEMA and the City of Fort Lauderdale.

**Background**

In January 2018, the Fire Rescue Department applied for funds through the US Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency's Assistance to Firefighters Grant, whose purpose is to provide funds to National, State, Local or Community organizations that are recognized for their experience and expertise with respect to Fire Prevention or Firefighter safety programs and activities.

On July 13, 2018, the Department was notified that its funding application for power load lift systems (for rescues) was approved.

The Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue Department (FLFR) requested grant funds to purchase twenty-three (23) critically needed power-load stretcher systems (power loaders). FLFR currently utilizes Power Pro stretchers on all of its frontline and reserve ALS rescue transport units. Additionally, while performing the agency's self-assessment for the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) staff conducted a comprehensive risk analysis and identified the need to install power load stretcher systems (power loaders) into our advanced life support (ALS) transport units to meet the National Fire Protection Agency's (NFPA) 1917 *Standard for Automotive Ambulances* [consideration of the Federal Specification KKK-A-1822 and NFPA 1901: *Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus*].

The power-loading stretcher fastener system (power loaders) lifts and lowers the stretcher into and out of the ALS transport unit, reducing spinal loads that can result in cumulative trauma injuries. Furthermore, the power loaders eliminates the need to steer a stretcher into and out of a ALS transport unit; minimizes patient drops by supporting the stretcher until the wheels are on the ground; meets dynamic crash test standards for maximized occupant safety and features an easy-to-use manual back-up system allowing complete operation in the event of a power loss.

The reduction in spinal load to the firefighter helps prevent debilitating and job-related back, shoulder, and other muscular injuries – these are the number one injuries in the fire service that are not fire ground related. The power loaders are ergonomically designed to reduce operator and patient injuries by hydraulically lifting patients weighing up to 700 lbs. The power loaders have been dynamically crash tested and meet the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) J3027 standard for maximum occupant-safety.

Additional equipment purchased with this grant and needed to support the power loader systems are as follows:

- Power-load ProCare compatibility upgrade kits
- Installation of power loaders into ALS transport units

The purchase of the power-load stretcher system will enable FLFR to be in compliance with the mandatory SAE safety requirement for ambulance specifications and NFPA 1917, which replaced the KKK-A-1822 (Triple K) national standard on July 1, 2015.

The City of Fort Lauderdale has been awarded \$639,756 from the US Department of Homeland Security/FEMA with a \$63,975 (10% local cash match).

#### **Resource Impact**

There is a positive fiscal impact to the City in the amount of \$639,756 and a local cash match in the amount of \$63,975. Funds are being appropriated through companion agenda item, CAM #18-0527.

<b><i>Funds available as of July 17, 2018</i></b>					
<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>INDEX NAME (Program)</b>	<b>CHARACTER CODE/ SUB- OBJECT NAME</b>	<b>AMENDED BUDGET (Character)</b>	<b>AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
129-GPWRLIFT19-C319	FY17 AFG Power Load System	DHS to FEMA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$639,756
129-GPWRLIFT19A-Q001	FY17 AFG Power Load System (Match)	General Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$63,975
			<b>APPROPRIATION TOTAL ►</b>		<b>\$703,731</b>

ACCOUNT NUMBER	INDEX NAME (Program)	CHARACTER CODE/ SUB- OBJECT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
129-GPWRLIFT19-6416	FY17 AFG Power Load System	Capital Outlay - Vehicles	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$639,756
129-GPWRLIFT19A-6416	FY17 AFG Power Load System (Match)	Capital Outlay - Vehicles	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$63,975
			<b>APPROPRIATION TOTAL ►</b>		<b>\$703,731</b>

### **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 9:** Be the safest urban coastal City in South Florida through preventative and responsive police and fire protection.
- **Objective 2:** Provide quick and exceptional fire, medical and emergency response.
- **Goal 10:** Be a City well-prepared for and responsive to all hazards.
- **Objective 1:** Provide and effectively communicate comprehensive emergency management.

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

### **Attachment**

Exhibit 1 – Grant Acceptance Letter

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

Department Director: Rhoda Mae Kerr, Fire Chief