

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Date: 11/21/2013	Agenda Item: Resolution	Subject: Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Application
Initiated By: Fire Department		Staff Source: Kraig Stovall, Training Chief

COUNCIL GOAL AND PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides funding for a variety of programs, equipment and facility needs within the United States fire services. The AFG conforms to the following City Council objectives:

- A City that provides and maintains quality infrastructure
- A safe, clean and attractive City
- A progressive City that provides responsive and cost efficient services

City Council has approved AFG applications during the past 11 years since the inception of the program in 2002. The Fire Department has received grants through AFG in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2009 and 2011.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Fire Department recommends approval to submit an application to AFG for the purchase of replacement portable radios, mobile radios and base station radios for the Fire Department.

BACKGROUND, ANALYSIS, AND ALTERNATIVES IDENTIFIED

The radio communication systems currently in use by the Fire Department were acquired approximately 10 years ago and are now obsolete. Our technical support through the manufacturer and our service provider will end this year. While repairs are still possible, parts for our current radios will no longer be available when the current inventory of parts on the market is depleted. Police Commander Tim Englert expects this to occur within the next year. Further, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has mandated a new emergency response framework that will go into effect in 2017 (originally 2013) requiring all emergency service providers to have P25 compliant radio equipment with a narrowband format, which the Fire Department currently does not have. The Fire Department desires to submit an application to AFG for funding to purchase 38 P25 compliant mobile and portable radios along with five P25 base station radios (stationary) to bring the department up to the P25 standard as well as to replace our currently obsolete radios. Due to federal sequestration, there was a delayed and abbreviated application period this fall. The AFG application deadline is December 6, 2013.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The AFG, for a city of Englewood's population, is a 90% Federal grant, which means the City would be required to provide a 10% match in funds for the project if awarded by FEMA and then approved by City Council. The Fire Department is actively preparing the application and is still working out the details of the total cost of the project with our current service provider; however, Commander Englert expects the cost to be approximately \$150,000 for the project. This would mean the Federal share would be ~\$135,000, and the City's share ~\$15,000. Submitting this grant application does not commit the City to accepting the funds should the grant be awarded.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- Draft -

RESOLUTION NO. _____
SERIES OF 2013

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR A FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) AWARD TO THE CITY OF ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO.

WHEREAS, the City of Englewood has received grant awards from the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2009 and 2011; and

WHEREAS, the radio communication systems currently in use by the Fire Department were acquired approximately 10 years ago and are now obsolete; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has mandated a new emergency response framework that will go into effect in 2017 (originally 2013) requiring all emergency service providers to have P25 compliant radio equipment with a narrowband format, with the Fire Department currently does not have; and

WHEREAS, the Englewood Fire Department desires to submit an application to AFG for funding to purchase 38 P25 compliant mobile and portable radios along with five P25 base station radios (stationary) to bring the department up to the P25 standard as well as to replace currently obsolete radios; and

WHEREAS, the AFG for the City of Englewood's population, is a 90% federal grant (the expected total cost of the project to be approximately \$150,000; expected 90% federal grant to be approximately \$135,000), which means the City would be required to provide a 10% match in funds (with the City's expected share of \$15,000) for the project if awarded by FEMA and then approved by City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City's matching funds are not currently budgeted and an appropriation request is anticipated from the Fire Department should this Grant be awarded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Englewood, Colorado hereby authorizes the Englewood Fire Department to submit an application for a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), for funding to purchase 38 P25 compliant mobile and portable radios along with five P25 base station radios (stationary) to bring the department up to the P25 standard as well as to replace our currently obsolete radios, attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Section 2. There are Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds being received for the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for funding to purchase 38 P25 compliant mobile and portable radios along with five P25 base station radios (stationary) to bring the department up to the P25 standard as well as to replace currently obsolete radios.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 2nd day of December, 2013.

ATTEST:

Randy P. Penn, Mayor

Loucrishia A. Ellis, City Clerk

I, Loucrishia A. Ellis, City Clerk for the City of Englewood, Colorado, hereby certify the above is a true copy of Resolution No. _____, Series of 2013.

Loucrishia A. Ellis, City Clerk