



City of Green River  
City Council Meeting  
Agenda Documentation

Preparation Date: February 26, 2019	Department: Fire Department
Meeting Date: March 19, 2019	Department Head: Mike Nomis
	Presenter: Larry Erdmann

**Subject:**

*Approval to Submit an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) SAFER*

**Background/Alternatives:**

*The Green River Fire Department is requesting permission to apply for the AFG SAFER grant. The SAFER grant period is now opened and will close on March 22, 2019. The SAFER grant is used to bring in new positions for fire departments throughout the nation. This is a grant that has a cycle of three years which the grant will cover the cost of salaries and benefits for these positions. This grant is a cost share program in which the federal portion will cover 75% of the salaries in the first and second year, then will cover 35% for the third and final year. If awarded this grant we will put the appropriate funds in the Fire Department budget to cover the share cost of this grant. This will be for a fourth position in the Fire Department to focus their time on pre-plans and inspection purposes for the City of Green River. The anticipated award date for this grant will be July 31, 2019.*

**Attachments:**

*Grant Information*

**Fiscal Impact:**

*The City of Green River's portion will be \$143,750 for the salary of this person over the next three fiscal years.*

**Staff Impact:**

*Assistant Chief Larry Erdmann will be working on the grant*

**Legal Review:** n/a

**Suggested Motion:**

*I move to authorize the Fire Department to apply for a Assistance to Firefighters SAFER Grant, in the amount of \$231,250, from the Department of Homeland Security. The City of Green River's portion will be \$143,750 for the salary of this person over the next three fiscal years.*

## **Program Overview, Objectives, and Priorities**

### ***Program Overview***

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) is responsible for the implementation and administration of the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program.

The National Preparedness Goal (the Goal) defines what it means to be prepared for diverse and complicated events. The National Preparedness System is the instrument the Nation employs to build, sustain, and deliver the core capabilities needed to achieve the goal of a more secure and resilient Nation. The development and sustainment of these core capabilities is not exclusive to any single level of government or organization, but rather it requires the combined effort of the whole community. To that end, the FY 2018 SAFER Program represents one part of a comprehensive set of measures authorized by Congress and implemented by the Administration. Among the five basic homeland security missions noted in the DHS Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, the SAFER Program supports the goal to Strengthen National Preparedness and Resilience.

The recently released [2018-2022 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. The SAFER Program supports the goal of *Readying the Nation for Catastrophic Disasters*. We invite all of our stakeholders and partners to also adopt these priorities and join us in building a stronger Agency and a more prepared and resilient Nation.

### ***Program Objectives***

The purpose of the SAFER Grant Program is to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to assist in increasing the number of firefighters to help communities meet industry minimum standards and attain 24-hour staffing to provide adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards, and to fulfill traditional missions of fire departments.

The objective of the SAFER grant program is to assist local fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities to respond to emergencies and assure that communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. Local fire departments accomplish this by improving staffing and deployment capabilities so they may more effectively and safely respond to emergencies. With enhanced staffing levels, recipients should experience a reduction in response times and an increase in the number of trained personnel assembled at the incident scene.

Although not required for a SAFER grant, it is preferable that the enhanced staffing levels of all SAFER recipients should ensure that all first-arriving apparatus are staffed with a minimum of four qualified personnel (to meet National Fire Protection Association

(NFPA) 1710/1720 standards) who are capable of initiating the suppression response. Ultimately, SAFER recipients should achieve more efficient responses and safer incident scenes, thereby ensuring communities have improved protection from fire and fire-related hazards.

In awarding grants, the Administrator of FEMA is required to consider the following:

- The findings and recommendations of the Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP);
- The degree to which an award will reduce deaths, injuries, and property damage by reducing the risks associated with fire related and other hazards; and
- The extent of an applicant’s need for a SAFER grant and the need to protect the United States as a whole.

SAFER offers grants to support projects in two activities. This NOFO provides potential eligible applicants with application requirements and details for processing and evaluating applications for financial assistance for both of these activity areas.

- **Hiring of Firefighters Activity** is to hire new, additional firefighters to improve staffing levels or changing the status of part-time or paid-on-call firefighters to full-time firefighters
- **Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity** is to assist fire departments with the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters who are involved with or trained in the operations of firefighting and emergency response

### ***Priorities***

Each activity has specific priorities and objectives. For additional details, please see [Appendix B – Programmatic Information and Priorities, Section IV. Funding Priorities.](#)

### **Performance Metrics**

Performance metrics for the program are as follows:

1. Percent of “majority career” SAFER recipients’ structural fire responses that complied with NFPA 1710 structural response standards.
2. Percent of “majority volunteer” SAFER recipients’ structural fire responses that complied with NFPA 1720 structural response standards.
3. Percent of SAFER hiring recipients who reported and provided evidence that the grant funding increased compliance with NFPA 1710 or 1720 assembly and deployment standards.

## **B. Federal Award Information**

### **Award amounts, important dates, and extensions**

**Available funding for the NOFO:** \$350,000,000

**Projected number of Awards:** 300