

LRB – FISCAL REVIEW SECTION ANALYSIS

MAY 2, 2002 AGENDA
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

ITEM 18, FILE 020026
Emma J. Stamps

File No. 020026 is a resolution relative to application of a Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

Background and Discussion

1. The Milwaukee Fire Department provides fire fighting and emergency medical services (EMS) to the citizens and visitors of the City.
2. Communities nationwide are seeing increased use of hazardous materials and a recent rise in natural and man-made disasters. These incidents pose new complex and dangerous threats to fire fighters.
3. The Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement (FIRE) Act was signed into law on October 30, 2000. The FIRE grant program, formerly known as the Assistance to Firefighters grant program, does the following:
 - Allows grants funds to be used for a variety of purposes including hiring personnel, training, wellness and fitness programs, equipment, fire-fighting vehicles, and modifications to fire stations.
 - Requires a 30 percent match from the grant recipients, but allows departments that serve communities of 50,000 people or less to provide a 10 percent match.
 - Require that recipient use 10% of grant funds to support fire prevention programs.
4. Initially, the FIRE Act authorized funding for two years at \$100 million in FY2001 and \$300 million in FY2002 through the FIRE Act Title XVII grant distribution program. Recent legislation allows the program extension into FY2003 and FY2004.
5. The Fire department wishes to use the FY2002 FIRE grant funds to implement a pilot Safety Program. The grant will support the following pilot Safety program objectives:
 - Enhance fire-ground safety
 - Report department vehicle accident investigations
 - Assist Emergency Medical Service
 - Investigations of workplace safety
 - Training
6. Uses for the \$234,020 grant include funding the following:
 - **One year** funding to support 4 Civilian positions (Whose job duties, responsibilities, titles and pay ranges is forthcoming from the Fire Department)
 - Necessary fire equipment
 - Vehicles
 - Office supplies
7. FY2002 FIRE grants fund programs from October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003.

Fiscal Impact

This resolution has no fiscal impact.

File 020026 **only** authorizes the department to **apply** for the FIRE grants. Additional legislation is required to accept and expend any grant funds that may be awarded to the Fire Department.

Other Information

The FIRE grant program recently received authorization for a two-year extension. FY2003 and FY2004 federal appropriations will increase to \$900 million per year. Any grants to the City of Milwaukee, from this source in future years, could reduce local funding needs from the taxpayers.

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LRB – Fiscal Review Section
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