

LRB – FISCAL REVIEW SECTION ANALYSIS

**NOVEMBER 11, 2004 AGENDA
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**ITEM 3, FILE 040976
Emma J. Stamps**

File 040976 is a resolution authorizing the acceptance and funding of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). (Fire Department)

Background

1. On September 21, 2004, the Common Council adopted Resolution 040502 authorizing the Milwaukee Fire Department to only apply for a \$787,500 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This resolution, 040976, authorizes the department to accept, fund and expend the grants funds from the grantor and Fiscal Year 2005 city capital improvement budgets (once adopted).
2. The earlier file, Resolution 040502, proposed the following:
 - Grant operation runs from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005
 - Grant uses include the purchase of 175 hand-held radios and related equipment (batteries and chargers)
 - If received, the \$787,500 total grant would require a city match whereby the city must match \$236,250 (30%) of the grantor funds \$551,250 (70%)
3. MFD did not advise whether acceptance and funding was contingent upon adoption of the 2005 city capital improvement budget for the required 30% grant match.
4. The current hand held radio inventory was purchased using operating and grant funds.

Discussion

1. The mayor's 2005 Proposed Budget for the Fire Department lists \$500,000 in new capital borrowing for radios and other equipment. The budget also includes \$1,000,000, a portion of the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grant to install the Fire Digital Radio System. If adopted as presented, MFD plans to use at least \$236,350 of that \$500,000 proposed borrowing for its 30% contribution toward the total \$787,500 FY2004 FEMA AFF grant.
2. Adoption of File 040976 authorizes the fire department to accept, fund, and expend the \$787,500 total grant, including the required 30% city match (\$236,250) using contingent FY 2005 capital borrowing authority.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact is contingent upon adoption of the 2005 city budget. The fire department has indicated that no alternative funding sources are available, should the Common Council decide not to authorize proposed \$500,000 capital borrowing initiative.

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November 8, 2004