

LRB – FISCAL REVIEW SECTION ANALYSIS

SEPTEMBER 8, 2004 AGENDA
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

ITEM 4, FILE 040502
Emma J. Stamps

File No. 040502 is a resolution relating to the Milwaukee Fire Department's application for a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Background

1. The FEMA-Assistance to Firefighters Grant is an on-going national grant program. 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.
2. In 2003, the MFD was awarded a \$5,000 FEMA-AFF grant for the purpose of hosting two seminars for juvenile fire-setter counselors who assess and treat juvenile fire-setters.
3. Presently, each MFD emergency apparatus is equipped with stationary radios and one or two hand-held radios, but fire apparatuses are staffed with four or five personnel, and paramedic units are staffed with two personnel.
4. The 2004 equipment budget included \$66,710 to purchase 19 replacement radio units.

Discussion

1. This is a continuing grant.
2. 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. The grant operates from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005, and the city will use it to purchase 175 hand-held radios and related equipment. Batteries and chargers constitute the related equipment component.
4. The MFD currently has approximately 330 hand held radios in inventory.

Fiscal Impact

File 040502 authorizes only the application for the 2004 FEMA AFF grant, which requires a 30% city match, or \$236,250.

Future Common Council action is required to accept and expend the grant, if awarded.

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