

SAFER Fire Act Grant Application

This is a brief description of the Department of Homeland Security Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program. The SAFER grant provides funding to fire departments to increase the number of fire fighters in the department. The Minneapolis Fire Department would use the additional firefighters to help meet minimum staffing requirements, particularly those set forth in National Fire Protection Association standard 1710.

The SAFER grant requires the support of the elected officials prior to application. Only about 5% of the total applications nationwide were funded last year. Most of the grants went to States that are growing in size in the South, Southwest and on the West Coast.

The firefighters hired under the grant must be employed for the entire five years. If the new staffing level is not maintained, the federal share of the grant must be returned. The grant funds a total of \$105,425 per fire fighter over five years. The MFD is asking for approval to apply for 12 additional fire fighters under this grant program. The 12 fire fighters would be used to put one fire company back in service in Northeast Minneapolis. This federal grant provides an opportunity to do this at a reduced cost to the city.

Under the grant guidelines, the federal government would pay \$1,625,100 (30% of the total cost) and the City would be responsible for the remaining \$2.95 million (70% of the total cost). The grant is “front loaded” so that the federal share is more in the first few years. It is for this reason we are seeking direction from the City Council as to whether or not we should apply for this grant. See the attached sheet for a complete breakdown of the financial details.