

NOPA



## Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of

Date: June 2, 2008  
To: Paul Ostrow, Chair, Ways and Means/Budget Cmt.

**Subject:** Application for a federal SAFER Grant and commitment from the City to meet the cost share obligation over the next five years in the event the Fire Department is awarded the grant.

**Recommendation:** Officially communicate to FEMA the inability to accept a FY 2008 SAFER Grant.

**Previous Directives:** On June 2, 2008 the Council authorized the Fire Department to pursue the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security seeking \$1,300,560 to employ 12 full time firefighters to meet minimum staffing requirements. Further, that the governing body acknowledges that the Fire Department has submitted the grant application and commits to the provision of necessary funding for the additional staff to met the City's cost sharing obligations, \$3,821,949 over the next five years, if awarded the grant.

In 2007, the Council authorized the Fire Department to pursue a SAFER grant and took the necessary actions to meet the five year obligation for cost-sharing.

Prepared by: Karen Lowery Wagner, Director of Finance and Logistics  
Approved by: Alex Jackson, Fire Chief *Alex Jackson*  
Presenters in Committee: Alex Jackson, Fire Chief

### Financial Impact

### Supporting Information

- SAFER Fire Act Grant Overview (attached)
- Budget/Financial Details of grant application (attached)

**On December 31, the Fire Department was notified by** the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant Directorate, that our FY 2008 SAFER grant application had been favorably reviewed. FEMA requested the completion of a questionnaire to further process the grant award. The first question was "If you are selected for a grant award, would you accept?" Given the current financial conditions, the Fire Department regrettably does not believe it can accept the grant and the financial obligations at this time.

## **SAFER Fire Act Grant**

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 is asking for approval to apply for 12 additional firefighters under this grant program. The Fire Department would utilize the additional 12 firefighters to help meet minimum staffing requirements, particularly those set forth in National Fire Protection Association standard 1710. This federal grant provides an opportunity to do this at a reduced cost to the city.

The SAFER grant requires the support of the elected officials prior to application. 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 \$108,380 per firefighter over five years.

Under the grant guidelines, the federal government would pay \$1,300,560 (30% of the total cost) and the City would be responsible for the remaining \$3.82 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.

There is a five-year period of performance for grants awarded under this activity. To maintain continued involvement, we will limit the Federal share in each of the years of the grant. Based on a total funding cap of \$108,380 over five years, the maximum annual Federal share of funds that you can receive under SAFER for salary and benefits for newly hired firefighters will not exceed the lesser of the following:

- Year One: 90 percent of the actual costs or \$39,015
- Year Two: 80 percent of the actual costs or \$34,675
- Year Three: 50 percent of the actual costs or \$21,670
- Year Four: 30 percent of the actual costs or \$13,020
- Year Five: No Federal share -- all costs borne by grantee

The budget for the Hiring of Firefighters Activity reflects the diminishing involvement in the Federal government's share of the costs of the firefighting positions.

	First 12-Month Period	Second 12-Month Period	Third 12-Month Period	Fourth 12-Month Period	Fifth 12-Month Period	<b>Total</b>
Personnel	575,952	645,066	722,474	809,171	906,272	<b>3,658,935</b>
Benefits	230,381	58,026	288,990	323,668	362,509	<b>1,463,574</b>
Federal Share	468,180	416,100	260,040	156,240	0	<b>1,300,560</b>
Applicant Share	338,153	486,992	751,424	976,599	1,268,781	<b>3,821,949</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>806,333</b>	<b>903,092</b>	<b>1,011,464</b>	<b>1,132,839</b>	<b>1,268,781</b>	<b>5,122,509</b>