



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Councilors

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager
Larry Mackey, Fire Chief

DATE: January 7, 2016

REF: Consideration – Authorization for Fire Department to Submit Various Grant Applications

BACKGROUND:

The Elizabeth City Fire Department is requesting support by the City Council in submitting multiple emergency service grants this year. These grants have to be prepared and ready for submittal when the application window is announced.

ANALYSIS:

First, the Fire Department is seeking grant funding to replace 20 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and four rescue team air kits. This request would replace SCBAs on all frontline apparatus. Our present inventory of 53 units has only 10 that are less than 10 years old. Maintenance and repair costs have risen significantly over the last three years. We plan to submit a grant request for \$145,720.00 to FEMA for this purpose. This grant will require a 10% match (\$14,572); and if awarded, will be included in the City's 2016-2017 budget. At the present time, this is the only grant that we are seeking that requires a match by the City.

Additional grants that we would like to submit are a regional grant to Firehouse Subs to replace an older thermal imaging camera, and several applications to state and local insurance organizations to purchase safety equipment and smoke and CO detectors. These grants have no budgetary impact.

Grant funding specific to the fire service is very rare and we are seeking this prior authorization so as we become aware of funding opportunities, we can quickly move to take advantage of them.

FINANCIAL:

The Finance Department discussed this matter during their meeting of January 7, 2016. Upon motion by Mayor Peel, seconded by Councilman Donnelly, the committee unanimously recommended approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, authorize the Elizabeth City Fire Department to submit the grant applications to FEMA, Firehouse Subs and state and local insurance organizations as described herein.

LM/vdw