



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Councilors

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

DATE: March 19, 2015

RE: Consideration – Authorization for the Elizabeth City Fire Department to Submit Various Grant Applications

BACKGROUND:

The Elizabeth City Fire Department is very proactive in researching opportunities for grant funding and is requesting the support of the City Council in submitting multiple grant applications in the coming months. Most of these grants are already being prepared and will be ready for submittal when the window for applications is announced.

ANALYSIS:

The Department is seeking prior authorization to submit applications for multiple FEMA Grants as they are announced. As examples, the department intends to submit a FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant Application (AFG) to replace equipment, as well as a FEMA Fire Prevention Grant. AFG funding awards do require a local match from the City that is normally 10%, but the only application that will have a budgetary impact in the current fiscal year is the Fire Prevention Grant. This grant, if awarded, would require minimal matching funds in the range of \$3,000 - \$4,000, which can be absorbed in the current operating budget. The local match for the AFG application for equipment replacement will be accounted for in the coming fiscal year budget.

Additional grant applications that the Fire Department would like to submit include a regional grant application to Firehouse Subs and several others to the State and local insurance organizations to purchase smoke and CO detectors. These grants do not require a local match.

Grant funding specific to fire service is very rare and staff is seeking prior authorization in order that we can move to take advantage of them following City guidelines as we become aware of funding opportunities.

FINANCIAL:

The Finance Committee discussed this matter during their meeting of March 19, 2015. Upon motion made by Councilman Darius Horton and seconded by Mayor Joe Peel, the committee recommended that the City Council authorize submission of the various grant applications as described.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, authorize the Elizabeth City Fire Department to submit various grant applications as described herein.

RCO/vdw