City of Asheville Staff Report

City Council Meeting Date: October 27, 2026

Staff Resources: Deputy Chief Chris Budzinski, Jessica Hughes, Fire Administration Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for and to accept grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and adoption of a budget amendment, in the amount of $74,683.10, to purchase wildland personal protective equipment using the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant.

Background:

- The City of Asheville was awarded $67,893.72 in Federal funding through the FY 2025 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (EMW-2025-FG-04073).
- The total approved project budget is $74,683.10. The Federal contribution is $67,893.62 which requires a non-Federal (local) cost share match of $6,789.38 (10%).
- The grant funds will be utilized to purchase wildland personal protective equipment (PPE), including 64 wildland shelters ($37,628.80), 64 web gear/backpacks ($11,625.60), 146 wildland helmets ($11,380.70), and 32 pairs of wildland boots ($14,048.00).
- The effective date of the award is September 21, 2026, with a performance period spanning two years from September 28, 2026, to September 27, 2028.

Vendor Outreach: Staff will perform outreach through solicitation processes which include posting on the State's Interactive Purchasing System and require prime contractors to perform outreach to subcontractors in accordance with applicable purchasing policies.

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- A well-planned and livable community

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- Infrastructure & Environment
- People

Committee(s):

- N/A

Fiscal Impact: The Asheville Fire Department will use grant funds to purchase wildland Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). A local match is required and is available in the AFD operating budget. The existing funds will be transferred to the Special Revenue Fund as part of the attached budget amendment.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for and to accept grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and to adopt a budget amendment in the total amount of $74,683.10, with $67,893.72 in federal funding and $6,789.38 as a local match, for the purchase of wildland personal protective equipment.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution
- Budget Amendment

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for and to accept grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

Whereas, the City has authority pursuant to N.C.G.S. 16A-17.1 to apply for and receive grants from the State and Federal governments and to enter into contracts for the administration of said grants; and

Whereas, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160A-461, application for and acceptance of a grant from a federal agency requires City Council approval; and

Whereas, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has awarded the City of Asheville a grant in the amount of $67,893.72 through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant for personal protective equipment extractors; and

Whereas, the City of Asheville has a required local match of $6,789.38 in order to accept the grant funding, which has been identified within the current fiscal year departmental operating budget; and

Whereas, acceptance of the grant funds will assist in promoting the safety and health of the City's firefighters by increasing the accessibility of wildland personal protective equipment within the Asheville Fire Department, which can reduce the risk of exposure to carcinogens.

Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to apply for and accept grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program in the amount of $74,683.10, with $67,893.72 in federal funding and $6,789.38 in local match funds, and to enter into an agreement with FEMA for the administration of said grant.

Read, approved, and adopted this 27th day of October, 2026.

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Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk

City of Asheville Budget Amendment Ordinance Number ____

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Asheville:

That Section 2 of the City of Asheville Annual Operating Budget Ordinance be amended to provide an appropriation of $74,683.10 to the Special Revenue Fund for the purchase of wildland personal protective equipment. The purchase will be funded through a grant as follows:

Special Revenue Fund

Revenues:

Transfer from the General Fund - $6,789.38
Assistance to Firefighters Grant - $67,893.72

Total Revenues - $74,683.10

Expenditures:

Equipment - $74,683.10

That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon the date of final passage.

Read, approved and adopted this 27th day of October, 2026.

_____
Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk