THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: November 15, 2022

Subject: Assistance to Firefighters Grant for Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Compressor

Staff Resource(s): Scott Burnette, Asheville Fire Chief; Beth Bechel, Business Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a budget amendment, in the amount of $65,000, for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Compressor

Background:

- The primary focus of FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant program is to provide assistance in funding for firefighting safety and protective equipment that can reduce the risk of exposure to cancer-causing carcinogens.
- The goal of the current request is to increase the safety and health of our firefighters by increasing the accessibility of a breathing air compressor within the Asheville Fire Department.
- The Department requested funds to purchase a SCBA air compressor.
- This equipment would be utilized to support the department's Air Management and Cancer Prevention Policies.
- Due to the prevalence of carcinogenic materials being emitted throughout the duration of a firefighting operation, the department's Cancer Prevention Policy requires SCBA usage at all fires for a minimum of 90 minutes after air monitoring indicates a clear environment in a fire occupancy.
- This policy has significantly increased the usage of breathing air at all of our fires while creating a safer work environment for our firefighters.
- AFD assigns approximately 40 members to every working fire incident.
- To fill bottles for these members, AFD relies upon neighboring fire departments that support a countywide air unit which responds to the incident scene.
- This unit is reliable, but there are times where it is unavailable due to being used by one of the other 21 Buncombe County fire departments or being serviced.
- The additional air compressor would allow greater accessibility to air refill by firefighters.
- This request also supports the SCUBA program which is one of two within the western region of North Carolina and the AFD Hazardous Materials Team which is contracted by NC Emergency Management as a regional resource for the 18 western NC counties.
- The overall request for funding via FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant is to increase the safety for all members by providing increased access to a breathing air compressor to support the increased usage of SCBA on firegrounds for firefighter safety.

Council Goal(s):

- A Financially Resilient City

Committee(s):

- N/A

Pro(s):

- Firefighter safety would be increased significantly

Con(s):.

- New equipment will require additional staff time to utilize and maintain.

Fiscal Impact:
- The total grant amount is $65,000, including the City match.
- Funding for the required 10% local match ($5,910) has been identified within the current fiscal year departmental operating budget.

Suggested Motion:
- Motion to adopt a budget amendment, in the amount of $65,000, for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Compressor

Attachment(s)
- Budget Amendment

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

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 $65,000 to accept a federal grant for Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Compressor as follows:

as follows:

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Revenues:

Federal Grants	$59,090
Transfer from General Fund	$ 5,910
Total Revenues	$65,000

Appropriations:

Supplies - Safety Equipment	$65,000

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

Read, approved and adopted this 15th day of November, 2022.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney