THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: February 24, 2026

Subject: Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Staff Resource(s): Fire Chief Mike Cayse, Jessica Hughes Fire Administration and Financial Business Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution to accept grant funds from the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant program as well as a budget amendment, in the amount of $74,949.10, for the FY 2024 Assistance to Firefighters grant to purchase wildland personal protective equipment (PPE).

Background:

- Asheville Fire Department (AFD) applied for the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant during FY 2024, and was awarded the grant in October 2025.
- 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 carcinogens.
- The goal of the current request is to increase the safety and health of our firefighters by increasing the accessibility of wildland PPE within the AFD.
- This grant will be used to purchase wildland PPE including helmets, boots, pants and shirts.
- 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 wildland PPE.
- All purchasing from this grant will follow the City's Purchasing Policy.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- N/A

Council (Goal(s):

- Fiscally Resilient City
- Clean, Safe and Healthy Environment

Committee(s):

- N/A

Pro(s):

- Firefighter safety would be increased significantly

Con(s):

- N/A

Fiscal Impact:

- The grant is for $68,135.54 in federal funding with a 10% required local match.
- Funding for the required 10% local match ($6,813.56) has been identified within the current fiscal year departmental operating budget.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the acceptance of grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and a budget amendment, in the amount of $74,949.10, authorizing the Asheville Fire Department to expend grant funds for wildland personal protective equipment, with the required 10% local match of $6,813.56 to be funded by the Fire Department's existing operating budget.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution
- Budget Amendment

RESOLUTION NO. 26-_____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City has the authority pursuant to N.C.S.G. 160A-17 to apply for and receive grants from the Federal Government and to enter into contracts with said grants; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has awarded the City of Asheville a grant in the amount of $68,135.54 through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant for personal protective equipment extractors;

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has a required match of $6,813.56 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 accept grant funds and enter into an agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the amount of $74,949.10 consisting of a grant of $68,135.54 and matching funds of $6,813.56.

Read, approved, and adopted this 24th day of February, 2026.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney

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 $74,949.10 to accept a federal grant for wildland personal protective equipment (PPE) as follows:

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Revenues:

Federal Grants	$68,135.54
Transfer from Operating Fund	$6,813.56
Total Revenues	$74,949.10

Appropriations:

Supplies - Safety Equipment	$74,949.10

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

Read, approved and adopted this 24th day of February, 2026.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney