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CITY OF DANBURY
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DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

DAVID W. ST. HILAIRE
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

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M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: 9/22/10
TO: HON. MARK D. BOUGHTON VIA THE CITY COUNCIL
FROM: DAVID W. ST. HILAIRE, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE *DWS*
RE: RESOLUTION-FEMA STAFFING (SAFER) GRANT

Attached for your review is a resolution that will allow the City of Danbury Fire Department to accept funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency through its 'Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response' (SAFER) grant program.

This funding, if awarded, will be used hire firefighting personnel to staff the rescue truck to serve as a rescue company or a Rapid Intervention Team.

If awarded, funding from FEMA will cover 2 years of salaries and benefits with the City responsibility being to retain and fund the personnel for a 3rd year. Funding awards are expected to be announced in the 10/11 fiscal year.

The City Council is respectfully requested to consider this resolution at its next meeting. Please contact me should you require any additional information.

DWS/sk

Cc: Chief Herald

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RESOLUTION

CITY OF DANBURY, STATE OF CONNECTICUT

_____ A.D. 2010



RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANBURY

WHEREAS, the Federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Grant Program Directive (GPD) have made available to municipal fire departments and other fire departments or related organizations, grant funding for a multi-year program to assist in the hiring and/or rehiring of firefighters; and

WHEREAS, the program, known as "SAFER" (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) seeks to fund a two (2) year program of hiring or rehiring firefighters, with a third year commitment by the recipient to fund the final year out of local resources; and

WHEREAS, said funding provides awards to selected departments after submission of an application and a program review process; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the City of Danbury to secure the opportunity for obtaining such grant funding and securing the opportunities provided to supplement funding in order to provide Danbury residents with the best fire protection capability possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Mayor Mark D. Boughton or his designee Fire Chief Geoff Herald, be authorized to make application to the SAFER program in accordance with documentation and stipulations as submitted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all actions taken in submission of preliminary application and interest in the program be and hereby are ratified, as are actions and submission of documents and materials preliminary to final award, acceptance of funds or program final commitment.



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CITY OF DANBURY

FIRE DEPARTMENT

19 NEW STREET

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Geoffrey R. Herald
Fire Chief

Phone 203-796-1550
Fax 203-796-1533

David W. St. Hilaire
Director of Finance
City Hall

September 15, 2010

Dear David:

The Danbury Fire Department has another opportunity to apply for and accept funding from FEMA through the 2010 SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Program. Funding is used to hire firefighters to increase the current staffing levels of the department. This is a three-year program with FEMA funding covering costs of increased staff for 2 years, while the City is required to retain the staffing levels and commit to fund the third year of the program.

The window for applying for the grant was very short. We were notified at the end of August that applications were due September 17, 2010. The application has been filed on-line, as required in order to meet the deadline. We now need to submit this to City Council for their approval of the submission.

The funding will allow the city to hire and staff our rescue truck. This vehicle will serve as a rescue company or a Rapid Intervention Team rescuing trapped and injured firefighters during most operations. In the event there are multiple events the company can respond in place of a truck company, effecting ventilation and rescue operations.

We are unsure of the likelihood of receiving the funding, as we were unfortunately not awarded funding for our recent submission under the 2009 SAFER program. I have discussed this program with the Mayor and he is in favor of pursuing any opportunity that will allow us to fully staff our department with the least cost possible.

Please move forward to have this item placed on the October 2010 City Council agenda. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,


Geoff Herald, Fire Chief

PART I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Introduction

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate is responsible for the implementation and administration of the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants. SAFER grants provide financial assistance to help fire departments increase their cadre of frontline firefighters or to rehire firefighters that have been laid off. The goal is to assist local fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities so they may respond to emergencies whenever they occur, assuring their communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. SAFER offers grants to support activities in two categories: (1) Hiring of Firefighters and (2) Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters.

The authority for SAFER is derived from the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, as amended (15 U.S.C. §2229a et seq.). The authority for waiving certain provisions of the SAFER Grant Program is derived from Section 605 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 (P.L. 111-32). Cost sharing requirements were waived under Sec. 603 of Title VI of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 (P.L. 111-5).

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2010, Congress appropriated a total of \$420 million to DHS for SAFER grants. The FY 2010 appropriated funds are available for award until September 30, 2011.

B. Federal Investment Strategy

The SAFER grants are an important part of the Administration's larger, coordinated effort to strengthen homeland security preparedness. The National Preparedness Guidelines are an all-hazards guide for meeting the Nation's four core preparedness objectives: prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks and catastrophic natural disasters.

The National Preparedness Guidelines define a vision for what should be achieved in order to strengthen the security of the Nation and provide guidance designed to forge a unified national consensus about what to do and how to work together at all levels of government. First responder participation is integral to the Guidelines' success. DHS expects its first responder partners to be familiar with this national preparedness architecture and to incorporate practical elements of this architecture into their planning, operations, and investments.