REPORT TO COUNCIL 13
City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
www. CityofSacramento.org

CONSENT
April 4, 2006

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Subject: AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF A FIRE STATION ALERTING SYSTEM IN THE AMOUNT OF $511,500

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for grant funding for the purchase of a Fire Station Alerting System.

Contact: Julius J. Cherry, Fire Chief, 433-1601
Mike Balash, Assistant Fire Chief, 433-1606
Michelle Basurto, Program Specialist, 433-1619

Presenters: None

Department: Fire Department

Division: Administrative Services

Organization No: 2532

Summary:

The Department of Homeland Security's Office of Grants and Training (G&T) in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration is currently accepting grant applications for the *2006 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program* (AFG). The purpose of the AFG Program is to award 1-year grants directly to fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical services (EMS) organizations of a State to enhance their abilities to protect first responders and the public from fire and fire-related hazards. The primary goal is to provide assistance to meet fire departments' and nonaffiliated EMS organizations' firefighting and emergency response needs.

The Fire Department is seeking grant funding to purchase and replace the Fire Station Alerting System estimated to cost $511,500. If successful, the City would be required to share in the cost of the project with an amount equal to twenty (20) percent of the total project cost.

Committee/Commission Action: None.

Background Information:

The essential component within each fire station for receiving dispatch alerts and incident information is the Fire Station Alerting System. Presently three of the twenty-three active fire stations were recently constructed or rebuilt and have new Fire Station Alerting System installed. These systems provide higher reliability, better supportability, and broader functionality than the older systems which have been in the remaining twenty stations for fifteen years. The older alerting systems, designed using custom-built, proprietary components, are unreliable, obsolete and deteriorating. In addition, the system components are not commercially available or easily replaceable. Replacement parts from original spare units are now in very short supply.

The proposed project will provide continuous fire station alerting capability by replacing the system with a commercially available and supportable system. The new system will provide reliable and functional notification that will not only be easier to support but could also improve response times. The new fire station alerting system is essential to meeting national response standards by receiving and relaying dispatch notifications within seconds. In addition it will include several devices to alert and inform firefighters with as much information as possible before arriving at the scene. This will help to improve incident operations and reduce the anxiety associated with responding to an incident by 'front-loading' the responders with key information early in the overall incident response and mitigation.

On March 6, 2006, the Office for Domestic Preparedness opened the application period for the *Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program*. Applications are due by April 7, 2006. Upon submitting the grant application electronically, a copy will be made available for review with the City Clerk.

Financial Considerations:

The grant program requires that applicants participate in the grant project by sharing in the cost of the project. Fire departments in areas serving populations more than 50,000 must match the grant funds with an amount of non-Federal funds equal to twenty (20) percent of the total project cost. The Fire Station Alerting System is estimated to cost $511,500. City matching funds of approximately $102,300 would be required and are available through the use of Fire Department Carryover funds.

Environmental Considerations:

Ongoing administrative and maintenance activities, such as purchases of supplies, equipment or materials which are not made for purposes of a public works construction

project, do not constitute a "project" and are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. CEQA Guidelines, Section 15061(b) (1), 15378(b) (3).

Policy Considerations:

The continued response to community, industry, construction, and business for rescue services is consistent with the City Council goal of improving and expanding public safety. Applying for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant is consistent with City Council actions relative to state and Federal grant awards and the City's goal of establishing and strengthening community and regional partnerships.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):

If awarded, City procurement policies will be adhered to in the acquisition of goods and services for this grant.

Respectfully Submitted

by: Michelle Basurto

Michelle Basurto, Program Specialist

Approved by:

Julius J. Cherry, Fire Chief

Recommendation Approved:

for RAY KERRIDGE
City Manager

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RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

April 4, 2006

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF A FIRE STATION ALERTING SYSTEM IN THE AMOUNT OF $511,500

BACKGROUND

A. The essential component within each fire station for receiving dispatch alerts and incident information is the Fire Station Alerting System.

B. The current fire alerting system, installed fifteen years ago, was designed using custom-built, proprietary components which have become unreliable, obsolete and are deteriorating.

C. The Fire Department is seeking grant funding to replace the current system with a commercially available and supportable system to provide a more reliable and functional notification system.

D. On March 6, 2006, the Office for Domestic Preparedness opened the application period for the *Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program*. Applications are due by April 7, 2006.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Manager or his designee is authorized to apply for grant funding for the purchase of a Fire Station Alerting System in the amount of $511,500.