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October 29, 2024

Board of Directors  
Ventura County Fire Protection District  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**SUBJECT:**

Ratification of the Acceptance for the Award of, and Execution of the Grant Agreement for, a Regional Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) in the Amount of \$969,600 for the Acquisition of Structural Turnout Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Requiring a Ten Percent Match; Ratification of Participation in, and Acceptance of \$144,480 from, the Regional FEMA AFG Awarded to the City of Oxnard Fire Department for Urban Search and Rescue Training Requiring a Ten Percent Match, and Authorization for the Auditor-Controller's Office to Process the Necessary Accounting Transactions. **(RECOMMENDATION NO. 3 REQUIRES 4/5THS VOTE)**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Ratify the acceptance of the award of, and execution of the grant agreement for, a regional Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) in the amount of \$881,455 for the acquisition of 202 Structural Turnout PPE Ensembles, requiring a ten percent match of \$88,145, for a total budget of \$969,600. (Exhibit 1)
2. Ratify participation in and acceptance of \$131,345 from the regional FEMA AFG awarded to the City of Oxnard Fire Department (FD) for Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) training, requiring a ten percent match of \$13,135, for a total budget of \$144,480.
3. Authorize the Auditor-Controller's Office to process the necessary accounting transactions to establish the following revenue and appropriations **(RECOMMENDATION NO. 3 REQUIRES 4/5THS VOTE)**.

Fund-Fire District S600, Budget Unit 2721

INCREASE Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 1,012,800
INCREASE Salaries and Benefits	\$ 144,480
INCREASE Services and Supplies	\$ 470,400
INCREASE Other Charges	\$ 453,818
DECREASE Restricted for Public Protection Fund Balance	\$ 55,898

**REASON FOR RATIFICATION:**

On May 21, 2024, your Board ratified the Ventura County Fire Protection District's (Fire District) submission of an application to the FEMA AFG regional grant program for 202 ensembles of structural turnout PPE and accessories and participation in the City of Oxnard Fire Department's FD regional grant application for US&R training. The requested grant funding was awarded to the Fire District, City of Oxnard FD, and City of Ventura FD, with minor reductions adjusted by FEMA AFG program administrators, in July and August 2024, with a deadline to accept electronically within 30 days of award notification. Therefore, the Fire District received approval from the County Executive Office to accept and participate in the AFG awards in order to meet the deadlines.

**FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:**

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	FEMA, S600 Fund Balance
Funding Match Required:	Yes
Impact on Other Departments:	None

Summary of Revenue and Total Costs:	<u>FY 2024-2025</u>	<u>FY 2025-2026</u>
Revenue:	\$1,012,800	\$0
Costs:		
Direct Department	\$1,068,698	\$0
Indirect County CAP	0	0
Direct:	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Costs:	\$1,068,698	\$0
Net Costs:	\$ 55,898	\$0

<b>Current FY 2024-25 Budget Projection for the Fire District - BU 2721</b>				
	<b>Adopted Budget</b>	<b>Adjusted Budget</b>	<b>Projected Budget</b>	<b>Estimated Savings/(Deficit)</b>
Appropriations	206,324,066	226,115,054	226,115,054	-
Revenue	209,676,547	209,676,547	209,676,547	-
Net Cost	(3,352,481)	16,438,507	16,438,507	-

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

This item supports the County's Strategic Plan priority of providing Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities. The grant award will enhance our high-performance public safety services through training and equipment, strengthening the Fire District and our mutual aid partners' preparedness and response capabilities during emergencies.

**DISCUSSION:**

The region's all-risk fire departments are summoned to meet the dynamic public safety needs on land, air, and sea. The Fire District is prepared with trained personnel and equipment for the jurisdiction. The Fire District's engagement in regional collaboration, enhanced readiness, relevancy, and responsiveness propagates throughout Ventura County's communities and our mutual aid partners.

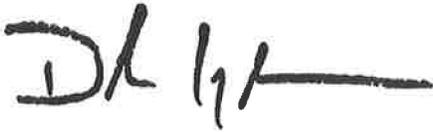
Through technological improvements and evolution in fire service industry standards, the equipment and training in the two FEMA AFG grant awards benefit the Fire District, but more importantly, they are mutually beneficial to the region's fire agencies. The enhanced equipment and training will provide greater safety and service and positively impact the Fire District's collaborators and mutual aid partners.

The Fire District's role in each of the two grant applications processes and intended utilization of the grants vary as follows:

1. The lead agency for a regional grant to fund the purchase of 202 ensembles of structural turnout PPE, with each ensemble consisting of a helmet, coat, pants, hood, gloves, and suspenders. The grant application amount is \$969,600, including an aggregate required cost share of \$88,145. The grant and cost share will be allocated between the Fire District and our regional partners, Oxnard City Fire Department (FD) and Ventura City FD. As part of the regional grant, the Fire District was awarded funding for 98 ensembles of structural turnout PPE for the apportioned amount of \$470,400, including the Fire District's required cost share of \$42,764. (Exhibit 1)
2. A sub-recipient for a regional grant to fund USAR training. The lead agency is Oxnard City FD, with the additional sub-recipient Ventura City FD. The Fire District's portion for

reimbursement of student backfill staffing costs up to 2,064 hours, totals \$144,480, including the Fire District's required cost share of \$13,134.

The County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel have reviewed this letter. If you have any questions, please contact me at (805) 389-9704 or Business Services Manager Tom Kasper at (805) 389-9764.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DK' followed by a stylized flourish.

Dustin Gardner  
Fire Chief

DG/TK/JS/GF:lgl

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – FEMA AFG Regional Award – Structural Turnout PPE Ensemble