

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: July 23, 2026

CAO File No. 0130-02079-0002

Council File No. 17-1434-S6

Council District: 6

To: The Mayor and Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer 

Reference: Board of Fire Commissioners Transmittal dated October 22, 2025

Subject: **FISCAL YEAR 2022 STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT AWARD - CONTINUATION**

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council, subject to the approval by the Mayor:

1. Authorize the Fire Chief, or designee, to continue to spend up to the Fiscal Year 2022 SAFER Grant amount total of \$5,103,040 in accordance with the grant award agreement, and additional City costs necessary to fully implement an Engine at Fire Station 7;
2. Authorize the Fire Chief, or designee, to submit grant reimbursement requests during the grant award period of March 13, 2024 through March 12, 2027 to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and deposit grant funds received into Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) Grants Fund 335, Department 38, Account to be determined;
3. Authorize the Controller to:
 - a. Establish a grant receivable and appropriate up to \$5,103,039.70 in Fund 335, Department 38, Account to be determined (TBD), for the receipt and disbursement of the FY 2022 SAFER Grant funds;
 - b. Transfer appropriations, as-needed, from Fund 335, Department 38, Account TBD, to the following Fund 100, Department 38, Accounts 001012 – Salaries Sworn or 001030 – Sworn Bonuses, upon submission of proper documentation by LAFD, subject to approval by the Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), of direct costs incurred during the grant performance period;
 - c. Transfer FY 2022 SAFER Grant funds from Fund 335, Department 38, to Fund 100, Department 38, Revenue Source Codes 5301 – Reimbursement from Other Funds, 5331 – Reimbursement of Related Cost-Prior Year, and 5346 – Reimbursement of Grant Related Costs, for costs incurred in 2025-26 and fringe benefit costs in 2026-

27, upon submission of proper documentation by LAFD, subject to approval by the CAO, of direct and related costs incurred during the grant performance period; and,

4. Authorize the LAFD and the Controller, based on LAFD submissions to the CAO of grant budget modifications approved by FEMA, to transfer funds as-needed, between Fund 335, Department 38, and Fund 100, Department 38, for implementation of the FY 2022 SAFER Grant; and,
5. Authorize the LAFD to prepare Controller instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to the approval of the CAO, and authorize the Controller to implement the instructions.

SUMMARY

The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) requests authority to continue to spend up to the Fiscal Year 2022 Staffing for Adequate Fire Emergency Response (22 SAFER) Grant amount total of \$5,103,040. in accordance with the grand award agreement, to fully implement an Engine at Fire Station 7, to submit grant reimbursement requests during the grand award period of March 13, 2024 through March 12, 2027 to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and to deposit the grant funds received. A copy of the LAFD's transmittal is included as an attachment to this report.

BACKGROUND

On September 15, 2023, the LAFD received notification from FEMA of its successful application for the 22 SAFER Grant, which will enable the LAFD to hire additional personnel for staffing an Engine at Fire Station 7 located in the Panorama City community within Council District 6. The grant award is \$7,752,582.48, and the performance period is for three years, from March 13, 2024 through March 12, 2027.

During this time, the City has committed to hiring 12 new full-time Firefighter positions. The grant conditions did not require the City to commit a cost match, and the salaries and benefits of the new Firefighters will be reimbursed up to the total grant amount. The City Council authorized the acceptance of the 22 SAFER Grant on October 20, 2023 (C.F. 17-1434-S6), and grant expenditures for Fiscal Year 2024-25 total \$2,649,542.78, with \$5,103,039.70 remaining to be spent.

This request will allow the LAFD to spend the remaining 22 SAFER Grant amount of \$5,103,039.70, submit reimbursement requests to FEMA for costs incurred, and to deposit reimbursing grant funds received. Disbursements under the grant will be based on actual salary and fringe benefits costs, and will be reimbursed on a bi-weekly to monthly basis.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval of the recommendations stated in this report will authorize the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to request and receive \$5,103,040 in reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, under the Fiscal Year 2022 Staffing for Adequate Fire

Emergency Response (22 SAFER) Grant, for the grant performance period beginning September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2027. The 22 SAFER Grant does not require the City to commit a cost match; however, the City is obligated to continue funding the associated bonuses and overtime costs of the 12 Firefighters whose salaries and benefits will be funded by the grant.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The recommendations provided in this report are in compliance with the City's Financial Policies, in that all grant funds will be utilized to fund grant activities.

MWS:AC:04270006c

Attachment

LOS ANGELES FIRE COMMISSION

BOARD OF
FIRE COMMISSIONERS'

GENETHIA HUDLEY-HAYES
PRESIDENT

SHARON DELUGACH
VICE PRESIDENT

CORINNE TAPIA BABCOCK
ELIZABETH GARFIELD
JIMMIE WOODS-GRAY

NEVERLY ANN HILL
COMMISSION EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT II



KAREN BASS
Mayor

TYLER IZEN
INDEPENDENT ASSESSOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
200 NORTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 1840
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

COMMISSION OFFICE
(213) 978-3838 PHONE
(213) 978-3814 FAX

October 22, 2025

Honorable Karen Bass
Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Room 303, City Hall
Attn: Legislative Coordinator

[BFC 25-060] – CONTINUATION OF FY 2022 STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT AWARD EMW-2022-FF-00502 – CF#17-1434-S6

At its meeting of October 21, 2025, the Board of Fire Commissioners approved the report and its recommendations. The report is hereby transmitted to the Mayor for consideration and approval.

Should you need additional information, please contact the Board of Fire Commissioners' office at LAFDFireCommission@lacity.org.

Sincerely,

Neverly Ann Hill
Commission Executive Assistant II

Attachment

cc: Interim Fire Chief Ronnie R. Villanueva (via email)

October 21, 2025

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



RONNIE R. VILLANUEVA
INTERIM FIRE CHIEF

APPROVED: 10/21/25
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
BY: [Signature]
COMMISSION EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

October 6, 2025

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 25-060

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: *R* Ronnie R. Villanueva, Interim Fire Chief

SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF FY 2022 STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE
EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT AWARD EMW-2022-FF-
00502 – CF#17-1434-S6

FINAL ACTION:	☒ Approved	☐ Approved w/Corrections	☐ Withdrawn
	☐ Denied	☐ Received & Filed	☐ Other

SUMMARY

On September 15, 2023, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) received notification regarding its successful application for the FY 2022 Staffing for Adequate Fire Emergency Response (SAFER) grant, which has been approved for a total amount of \$7,752,582.48. The grant funding will enable the LAFD to hire additional personnel for staffing an Engine at FS 7 in Panorama City, as identified in the Standards of Cover. The grant performance period spans three years, from March 13, 2024, through March 12, 2027, during which the City has committed to hiring 12 new full-time sworn Firefighter positions. As per the grant conditions, there is no federal cost share, and the salaries and benefits of the new hires will be reimbursed up to the total grant amount of \$7,752,582.48.

The objective of the SAFER program is to augment the capacity of local fire departments to comply with the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) standards for staffing, response, and operations. SAFER grants are available to support local fire departments in enhancing their staffing and deployment capabilities for responding to emergencies, thereby ensuring that communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards.

The grant award for implementing an engine resource is incomplete as it does not account for crucial additional costs. These expenses include overtime pay for constant staffing, as well as incremental costs to hire three Fire Captain I and three Engineer authorities to meet the required staffing configuration. There are no anticipated training costs, but SAFER recruits will be included in a regularly scheduled training class.

The City Council authorized acceptance of the SAFER grant on October 20, 2023 (CF

17-1434-S6). Grant expenditures up to the end of FY 2024-25 amount up to \$2,649,542.78 which leaves \$5,103,039.70 to be spent in FY2025-26.

FISCAL IMPACT

The SAFER program has approved a grant of \$7,752,582.48 to hire 12 firefighters for the LAFD. The grant will cover all the costs of hiring the firefighters and be fully reimbursed without federal cost share. However, if there are any additional expenses beyond the grant amount, the City will be responsible for covering those expenses. The SAFER Grant will have a fiscal impact of approximately \$2,527,753.14 on the General Fund. This funding will cover the additional staffing costs for a Fire Engine. With the additional firefighters, the SAFER Grant will help in fulfilling the Standards of Cover in Panorama City. The grant will also provide for an Engine at FS 7, fully staffed by three Fire Captains I, three Engineers, and six Firefighters. The disbursements under the SAFER Grant will be based on actual salary and fringe benefit costs and reimbursed on a bi-weekly to monthly basis. The reimbursement will depend on payroll pay periods and FLSA periods throughout the three-year performance period.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:

1. Approve and transmit the Mayor and City Council for consideration and approval to:
 - a. Continue to spend up to the FY 2022 SAFER Grant amount total of \$5,103,039.70 in accordance with the grant award agreement, in addition to further City costs necessary to fully implement an Engine at FS 7;
 - b. Submit grant reimbursement requests during the grant award period of March 13, 2024 through March 12, 2027 to FEMA and deposit grant funds received into LAFD Grants Fund 335, Department 38, Account to be determined;
2. Authorize the Controller to:
 - a. Establish a grant receivable and appropriate up to \$5,103,039.70 to an appropriation account, number to be determined (TBD), in Fund 335/38 for the receipt and disbursement of the FY 2022 SAFER Grant funds;
 - b. Transfer appropriations, as needed, from Fund 335/38, account number TBD, to Fund 100/38, Account 001012, Salaries Sworn, or Account 1030, Sworn Bonuses, upon submission of proper documentation by LAFD, subject to approval of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), of direct costs incurred during the grant performance period; and,
 - c. Transfer FY 2022 SAFER Grant funds from Fund 335/38 to Fund 100/38, Revenue Source Code 5346, Reimbursement of Grant Related Costs, for fringe benefits and related costs upon submission of proper documentation by LAFD,

subject to CAO approval, of related costs incurred during the grant performance period;

3. Authorize the LAFD and Controller, based on LAFD submissions to the CAO of grant budget modifications approved by FEMA, to transfer funds, as needed, between Fund 335/38 and Fund 100/38 for implementation of the FY 2022 SAFER Grant; and,
4. Authorize LAFD to prepare Controller instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to CAO approval, and authorize the Controller to implement the instructions.

Board report prepared by Meritxell Capdet Karapetian, Management Analyst,
Emergency Operations Bureau, Homeland Security Division.