

MOTION

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) mission is to support United States citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards. In order to meet FEMA's mission, grant programs are offered to first responder agencies, such as the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER).

SAFER was created to provide funding directly to fire departments to help them increase or maintain the number of trained "front line" firefighters available in their communities. The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The SAFER Grants are offered to support projects to hire new, additional firefighters to improve staffing levels.


The objective of the SAFER grant program is to assist local fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities in order to respond to emergencies, and assure that communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. Ultimately, SAFER recipients should achieve more efficient responses, thereby ensuring communities have improved protection from fire and fire-related hazards.


On September 24, 2025, the LAFD was notified that its application for the Fiscal Year 2024 SAFER grant was approved in the amount of \$6,817,969 (\$3,949,774 for salaries and \$2,868,195 for benefits) for the three-year performance period of March 23, 2026 through March 22, 2029. This grant will enable LAFD to staff a new resource, Engine 200, at Fire Station 100 (West Van Nuys/Lake Balboa area), a critical need identified in standards of cover assessments. This grant has a cost share requirement of 25% for the First and Second year, and 65% for the Third Year. The federal share for the three-year period is \$4,204,414 with the City match total of \$2,613,555. The City is also responsible for any costs that exceed grant funding.

With implementation beginning in the current fiscal year for partial coverage of a recruit class commencing in June 2026, salary expenditures of \$206,524 are anticipated which are subject to reimbursement. LAFD will address these requirements by the Year-End Financial Status Report.

The grant has an acceptance deadline of January 31, 2026 by FEMA. LAFD was unable to bring the matter forward earlier due to pending litigation with DHS/FEMA grants which included SAFER.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council, subject to approval of the Mayor, authorize the Fire Chief, or his designee, to take all necessary actions to accept the 2024 SAFER grant and instruct the Fire Department to report back with implementation details.

PRESENTED BY 
JOHN S. LEE
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY 

ORIGINAL


JAN 28 2026