

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

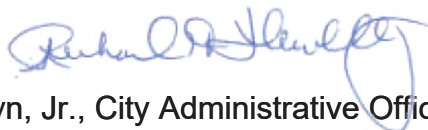
Date: March 10, 2021

CAO File No. 0100-00144-0335

Council File No. 18-0997

Council District: All

To: The Mayor
The Council



From: Richard H. Llewellyn, Jr., City Administrative Officer

Reference: Transmittal from the Board of Fire Commissioners dated November 18, 2020

Subject: **SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR THE 2017 FEDERAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) GRANT AWARD FOR THE URBAN SEARCH
AND RESCUE TASK FORCE**

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Approve and authorize the Fire Chief, or designee, to accept supplemental funding in the amount of \$17,507 relative to the 2017 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Cooperative Agreement grant award for the Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force, and execute any documents or agreements necessary to accept the grant, subject to the approval by the City Attorney as to form;
2. Authorize the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to deposit the 2017 FEMA grant funds received under this cooperative agreement into Fund 335 FEMA USR 2017, Department 38, Account 38017R;
3. Authorize the LAFD and Controller to transfer funds, as needed, between Fund 335, Department 38 and Fund 100, Department 38, for the implementation of the 2017 FEMA US&R cooperative agreement, based on the submissions to the City Administrative Officer (CAO) of grant budget modifications approved by FEMA, through the grant performance period from September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2021; and,
4. 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

In accordance with Executive Directive No. 3, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) submits the proposed request to accept \$17,507 in supplemental funding relative to the 2017 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant award. The proposed funding will increase the total grant award from \$1,205,013 to \$1,222,520. The term for the Cooperative Agreement will remain unchanged from September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2021.

At its meeting of November 17, 2020, the Board of Fire Commissioners (Board) approved a LAFD report relative to the acceptance of supplemental grant funds in the amount of \$17,507 for the replacement of equipment in support of the Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force. An audit performed by the Government Accountability Office highlighted the need to develop a comprehensive plan to prioritize and finance the replacement of equipment for the 28 National US&R taskforces. As a result of this audit, participating agencies were allowed to apply for additional funding for the re-capitalization of communications equipment, to include portable radios, repeaters, hardware, and satellite communications systems.

On May 28, 2020, the LAFD requested a one-year extension of the performance period through August 31, 2021 to allow for the use of grant funds that were initially appropriated for travel and training. The LAFD was unable to utilize these funds as a result of travel restrictions imposed from the COVID-19 pandemic.

On April 4, 1993, the City entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with FEMA and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, to establish the LAFD as one of 28 participating agencies of the FEMA US&R Task Force (C.F. 92-2021-S1). As a participating agency, the LAFD receives funding from the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System for the equipment, supplies, training, and salaries in support of the US&R CA-TF1 Team. The LAFD will maintain the resources and personnel to ensure 24-hour mobilization and capability of US&R CA-TF1 following a Presidentially declared major disaster or emergency such as, earthquakes, tornados, floods, hurricanes, aircraft accidents, hazardous material spills, and catastrophic structure collapses, for the purpose of locating, extricating, and providing initial medical treatment.

Under the terms of the MOA, the LAFD is responsible for organizing and administering the task force to include recruiting and training, designating a Program Manager, maintaining capability for 24-hour activation, and complying with financial, administrative, reimbursement, and reporting requirements. On August 12, 2011, the Council approved an amendment to the MOA (C.F. 10-2283-S1) reflecting the transfer of FEMA to the Department of Homeland Security and the publication of the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Regulations.

On December 12, 2018, the Council approved the Public Safety Committee report and original Cooperative Agreement for the acceptance of the 2017 FEMA US&R grant award in the amount of \$1,205,013 for a three-year performance period beginning on September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2020 (C.F. 18-0997). Funds were programmed for the following:

- \$504,315 - Direct and indirect salary costs for the reimbursement of resolution authorities

for one Fire Captain I and one Management Analyst (C.F. 08-2490), and one Storekeeper (C.F. 16-0600) to administer and manage the US&R program;

- \$319,800 - Funding for the Overtime Variable Staffing Account to backfill members assigned to specialized training on search and rescue activities; and,
- \$380,898 - Funding for the contracts, equipment, and related expenses for specialized personal services agreements relative to Canine Specialists, Medical Team Managers, Structural Engineering Specialists, equipment, supplies, and travel expenses in support of the program operations.

As part of the Board's report, the LAFD requests to transfer funds from the Salaries Sworn Account to the 2017 FEMA Account to front-fund the cost of the equipment. The LAFD now reports that this transfer is no longer necessary. The LAFD has identified unexpended grant funds eligible for this purpose.

In accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code (LAAC) Section 14.6, the LAFD is required to transmit grant applications for Mayor and Council approval before accepting and receiving the grant award. In addition, Mayoral approval is required for any grant program amendments, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality (LAAC 14.8).

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval of the recommendations stated in this report will authorize the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to accept supplemental funding in the amount of \$17,507 for the purchase of equipment in support of the 2017 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Urban Search and Rescue Task Force. The grant award will increase from \$1,205,013 to \$1,222,520. The Department has expended \$1,216,942 of the grant award to date, and has a remaining balance of \$5,578. The term of the cooperative agreement will remain unchanged from September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2021. The FEMA grant does not require matching funds by the City. There is no additional impact to the General Fund.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The recommendations stated in this report comply with the City's Financial Policies in that, to the extent possible, current operations will be funded by current revenues.

RHL:DP:04210081c

Attachments

LOS ANGELES FIRE COMMISSION

BOARD OF
FIRE COMMISSIONERS

DELIA IBARRA
PRESIDENT

ANDREW GLAZIER
VICE PRESIDENT

JIMMY H. HARA, M.D.
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ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

SUE STENGEL
INDEPENDENT ASSESSOR

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

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

November 18, 2020

Honorable Members of the City Council
City of Los Angeles
City Hall, Room 395
Attn: City Clerk

Honorable Eric Garcetti
Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Room 303, City Hall
Attn: Legislative Coordinator

[BFC 20-106] – ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2017 FEMA URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE
TASK FORCE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING (C.F. 18-0997)

At its special meeting of November 17, 2020, the Board of Fire Commissioners approved the report and its recommendations. The report is hereby transmitted concurrently to the Mayor and City Council for consideration and approval.

Should you need additional information, please contact the Board of Fire Commissioners' office at 213-978-3838.

Sincerely,

Commission Executive Assistant II

Attachments

cc: Board of Fire Commissioners (without attachments)
Fire Chief Ralph M. Terrazas (without attachments)
Office of the City Administrative Officer (without attachments)

APPROVED: 11/17/20
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
BY: *[Signature]*
COMMISSION EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

November 17, 2020



RALPH TERRAZAS
FIRE CHIEF

November 4, 2020

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 20-106

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: *RM* Ralph M. Terrazas, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2017 FEMA URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE
TASK FORCE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT SUPPLEMENTAL
FUNDING (C.F. 18-0997)

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

SUMMARY

On April 4, 1993, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was executed between the City, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), establishing the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) as a sponsoring agency of a FEMA Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force, California Task Force 1 (CA-TF1). An Amendment to the MOA was executed in 2011 (C.F. 10-2283-S1). Since 1993, the City has been awarded annual FEMA Cooperative Agreement grants to fund equipment, supplies, training, contractual services, and LAFD personnel to administer and manage the US&R CA-TF1 program.

LAFD was awarded an additional \$17,507 for the 2017 FEMA Cooperative Agreement Grant, with an extended period of performance from September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2021. No matching funds are required, but the grant is on a reimbursement basis requiring the LAFD to front-fund expenditures. Following submission of appropriate supporting documentation, FEMA reimburses the City for those expenditures.

The expenditure plan is as follows:

Equipment:

- \$17,507 - to fund the purchase of specific equipment, which will be provided in a subsequent Program Directive from the FEMA Branch Office.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact on the General Fund. The FEMA Urban Search and Rescue grant agreement does not require City matching funds. In accordance with grant guidelines, project funds are disbursed on a reimbursement basis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:

1. Approve and transmit the report to the Mayor and the Office of the City Administrative Officer for Committee and City Council consideration.

It is also recommended the Board request that the Mayor and City Council:

2. Accept the 2017 FEMA Cooperative Agreement Supplemental Grant for the Urban Search and Rescue CA-TF1 in the amount of \$17,507 for the term of September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2021, and authorize the Fire Chief, or designee, to execute any documents or agreements necessary to accept the grant on the City's behalf.
3. Authorize the Fire Department to deposit 2017 FEMA grant funds received into Fund 335, Department 38, Account 38017R.
4. Authorize the Controller to transfer \$17,507 from Fund 100, Department 38, Account 001012 (Salaries Sworn) to Fund 335, Department 38, Account 38017R, for the purchase of expense and equipment items, to be reimbursed by the FEMA grant during the period of September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2021, and any extensions granted by FEMA.
5. Authorize the Fire Department to prepare Controller instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to approval of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), and instruct the Controller to implement the instructions.
6. Based on Fire Department submissions to the City Administrative Officer of grant budget modifications approved by FEMA, authorize the Fire Department and Controller to transfer funds, as needed, between Fund 335, Department 38 and Fund 100, Department 38 for implementation of the 2017 FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Cooperative Agreement program through the end of the grant performance period.

Board report prepared by Victoria Rodriguez, Management Analyst, Emergency Operations Bureau.



FEMA

US&R PROGRAM DIRECTIVE – 2018-011

October 1, 2018

FOR: National Urban Search & Rescue Response System
Task Force Representatives

FROM: Fred Endrikat, Chief
Urban Search and Rescue Branch

SUBJECT: US&R Program Directive 2018-011 – US&R Readiness Cooperative Agreement
FY2017 Supplemental Funding Award Notification

Implementation Date: October 1, 2018

Expiration Date: November 1, 2018

The purpose of this Program Directive is to notify you of supplemental funding to your National Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) Response System (the System) FY2017 Readiness Cooperative Agreement award.

With reference to Program Directive (PD) 2018-009a (Revised) – *FY2017 US&R Readiness Cooperative Agreement - Supplemental Award with FY2018 Funding*, all System task forces received an amendment to their FY 2017 Readiness Cooperative Agreement in ND Grants in the amount of \$17,507.

All Sponsoring Agencies received formal notification from the FEMA Grant Programs Directorate (during the time period of September 28th through September 30th) that amendment requests were approved.

REQUIRED ACTIONS

Sponsoring Agencies and task forces are to await further guidance pertaining to the purchase of specific communications equipment with the proceeds from this supplemental funding, along with corresponding specifications and quantities, which will be provided in a subsequent PD.

cc:

US&R Strategic Group
US&R Advisory Group
US&R Branch Staff
FEMA Regional/Federal/International ESF #9 Representatives
US&R Task Force Grant Managers
Tawana Mack, Grant Programs Directorate