

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: July 6, 2026

CAO File No. 0100-00144-0362

Council File No. 24-0641

Council District: --

To: The Mayor and Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer



Reference: Board of Fire Commissioners Transmittal dated November 5, 2025.

Subject: **CONTINUATION OF THE 2023 FEMA URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT IN FY 2025-26 – LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT**

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Authorize the Fire Chief, or designee, to deposit the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) grant funds received under this Cooperative Agreement into Fund 335, Department 38, Account 38023R;
2. Authorize the Controller, to transfer 2023 FEMA US&R grant funds from Fund 335, Account 38023R, to various Fund 100, Department 38 salary accounts as follows: 001012, Salaries Sworn Account; 001010, Salaries General Account; 001090, Overtime General Account; and 001098, Overtime Variable Staffing Account, upon submission of proper documentation by the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) for direct staff costs incurred during the grant performance period;
3. Authorize the Controller to transfer 2023 FEMA US&R grant funds from Fund 335, Account 38023R to Fund 100, Department 38, Revenue Source 5346, Reimbursement of Grant Related Costs, for fringe benefits upon submission of proper documentation by the LAFD during the grant performance period; and,
4. Authorize the LAFD to prepare Controller instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to the approval of the Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), and the authorize Controller to implement the instructions.

SUMMARY

The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) requests authority to continue \$435,808 in grant funding relative to the 2023 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) grant award and a grant performance period for beginning September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2026. Matching funds are not required through this cooperative agreement; however, the LAFD is required to front-fund the necessary expenditures. The City will then receive the grant funds on a reimbursement basis, following submission of proper documentation.

BACKGROUND

On April 4, 1993, the City entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with FEMA and the California 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). 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. As a participating agency, the LAFD receives funding from FEMA for the equipment, supplies, training, and salaries in support of the US&R CA-TF1 Team. Upon request by the State or Federal government, the LAFD will mobilize US&R CA-TF1 for the purpose of locating, extricating, and providing initial medical treatment to trapped victims of structural collapses at a designated disaster site. 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 July 1, 2024, the Council approved the Public Safety Committee report and Cooperative Agreement for the acceptance of the 2023 FEMA US&R grant award in the amount of \$1,263,456, for a three-year performance period beginning on September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2026.

At its meeting on September 2, 2025, the Board of Fire Commissioners (Board) approved a LAFD report relative to the acceptance of additional grant funds from FEMA in the amount of \$145,372 for the purpose of continuing FEMA's recapitalization plan to prioritize and finance the replacement of US&R Task Force equipment caches. On November 4, 2025, the Board of Fire Commissioners approved a LAFD report requesting to continue \$435,808 in funding from the 2023 FEMA US&R grant award appropriated for salaries, personnel training, contractual services, travel, supplies and the purchase of equipment for program operations. The remaining \$435,808 in funds will provide \$80,422 in funding for Overtime Variable Staffing hours and \$355,386 in funding for supplies, travel, contractual services, and equipment.

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 (LAAC Section 14.8)

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval of the recommendations stated in this report will authorize the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to continue \$435,808 in funding that remains unexpended from the grant award total of \$1,408,828 provided by the 2023 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force Grant Award for the grant performance period beginning September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2026. The LAFD will front-fund the costs to cover salaries, personnel training, contractual services, travel, supplies and equipment, subject to reimbursement by FEMA upon submission of proper documentation.

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.

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