

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: May 28, 2025

CAO File No. 0100-00144-0356

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 6, 2024

Subject: **ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2023 FEMA URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT (C.F. 22-1423) – SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING**

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Accept the 2023 FEMA Cooperative Agreement Supplemental Grant for the Urban Search and Rescue CA-TF1 in the amount of \$145,372 for the term of September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2026, and authorize the Fire Chief, or designee, to execute any documents or agreements necessary to accept the grant, subject to the approval by the City Attorney as to form;
2. Authorize the Fire Department to deposit the receipt of the Supplemental 2023 FEMA grant award funds into Fund 335, Department 38, Account 38023R;
3. Authorize the Controller, to transfer \$145,372 from Fund 100, Department 38, Account 001012 (Salaries Sworn) to Fund 335, Department 38, Account 38023R, for the purchase of expense and equipment items, to be reimbursed by the FEMA grant during the period of September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2026, and any extensions granted by FEMA;
4. Authorize the Fire Department and the Controller to transfer funds, as needed, between Fund 335, Department 38 and Fund 100, Department 38, based upon submissions to the City Administrative Officer (CAO), for implementation of the 2023 FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Cooperative Agreement program through the end of the grant performance period; and,
5. Authorize the Fire Department to prepare Controller instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to 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 a proposed request to accept \$145,372 in additional funding relative to the 2023 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Cooperative Agreement Grant for the Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force - California Task Force One (CA-TF1). The proposed funding will increase the total grant award from \$1,370,127 to \$1,515,499. The grant performance period will be amended to cover the period from September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2026.

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 February 10, 2023, the Council approved the Public Safety Committee report and Cooperative Agreement for the acceptance of the 2022 FEMA US&R grant award in the amount of \$1,211,650, for a three-year performance period beginning on October 1, 2022 through August 31, 2025 (C.F. 22-1423).

At its meeting on November 5, 2024, 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, the components of which have become obsolete, expired, non-functional or unsupported. Among the recommendations in the Board report, the LAFD is requesting to transfer funds from the Department's Salaries Sworn Account to the 2023 FEMA Account to front-fund the cost of purchasing the replacement cache equipment, which will be reimbursed by the grant award following submission of proper documentation.

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 accept supplemental funding in the amount of \$145,372 for the purchase of replacement cache equipment in support of the 2023 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Cooperative Agreement Grant for the Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force - California Task Force One (CA-TF1), for a total grant award amount of \$1,515,499. The term of the cooperative agreement will cover the period from September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2026. The LAFD will front-fund the costs for the purchase of the equipment, subject to reimbursement by FEMA upon submission of proper documentation. 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 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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