

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER


Date: June 29, 2026

CAO File No. 0100-00144-0361

Council File No. 25-0594

Council District: --

To: The Mayor and Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer 

Reference: Transmittal from the Board of Fire Commissioners dated February 10, 2026

Subject: **ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2024 FEMA URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT – SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING**

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Accept the 2024 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Cooperative Agreement Supplemental Grant for the Urban Search and Rescue California Task Force One (CA-TF1) in the amount of \$25,000 for the term of September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2027, 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 Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to deposit the 2024 FEMA grant funds received under this cooperative agreement into Fund 335, Department 38, Account 38024R;
3. Authorize the Controller, to transfer \$25,000 from Fund 100, Department 38, Account 001012 (Salaries Sworn) to Fund 335, Department 38, Account 38024R, for the purchase of expense and equipment items, to be reimbursed by the FEMA grant during the period of September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2027, 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 2024 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

The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) requests the authority to accept the 2024 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Cooperative Agreement Grant Supplemental Funding for the Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force - California Task Force One (CA-TF1) in the amount of \$25,000, increasing the total grant award from \$1,369,884 to \$1,394,884 with a performance period of September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2027. Matching funds are not required for the supplemental funding; 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. 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.

Under the terms of this 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 purposes 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 September 30, 2025, the Council approved the Public Safety Committee and Budget and Finance Committee report for the acceptance of the 2024 FEMA US&R grant award in the amount of \$1,369,884, for a three-year performance period beginning on September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2027 (C.F. 25-0594). At its meeting on February 3, 2026, the Board of Fire Commissioners (Board) approved a LAFD report relative to the acceptance of additional grant funds from FEMA in the amount of \$25,000 for the purpose of creating a US&R Planning Team Training course. The grant award funding will be used to cover classroom and training supplies, student meals, and event space costs.

Among the recommendations in the Board report, the LAFD is requesting to transfer funds from the Department's Salaries Sworn Account to the 2024 FEMA Account to front-fund the cost of the US&R Planning Team Training course, which will be reimbursed by the grant award following submission of proper documentation.

In accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 14.6, the LAFD is required to transmit grant applications for Mayor and Council approval before accepting and receiving the grant award.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval of the recommendations included in this report will authorize the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to accept the 2024 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) Cooperative Agreement Grant Supplemental Funding in the amount of \$25,000 effective from September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2027. The LAFD will front-fund all costs and will be reimbursed by FEMA upon submission of proper documentation. Matching funds by the City are not required. The grant award funding will support the creation of a US&R Planning Team Training course including classroom and training supplies, student meals, and event space costs.

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:JNR:0426187