

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
“ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER GRANT”**

BACKGROUND:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) annually conducts a grant program titled “The Assistance to Firefighters Grant”. The City has applied for six grants in the last seven years, of which four were successful. The City’s 2009 application will request grant funds to finance a fixed position natural gas emergency generator at Fire Station #2. The project will benefit our citizens by providing power during electrical outages to the emergency dispatch and alarm system. The new generator will replace a 20+ year old portable generator located at that station. The existing generator was sufficient at the time of acquisition, but is insufficient for the current station alarm and dispatch system.

This project has been part of our Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) in past years and is currently scheduled for acquisition in 2010-11.

The City Council is being asked to approve this application in advance of an assured source for the matching funds. Staff would not make this recommendation were it not possible to decline the grant after FEMA has offered us the funding opportunity. As a matter of course, a recipient of an “Assistance to Firefighters Grant” is offered two opportunities to accept or decline before the grants are finalized.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve submittal of the application for the “Assistance to Firefighters Grant” from FEMA.
2. Do not approve the request to make application for the “Assistance to Firefighters Grant” at this time. Include local match funding for this project in a future CIP.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Replacement of the Fire Station #2 emergency generator is part of the approved CIP for 2010-11. The generator will be sized appropriately for current and future needs and will be capable of being moved to a new station should Fire Station #2 be replaced. The FEMA grant would accelerate acquisition of the generator for the Fire Department and save funds from our local option sales tax. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the submission of an application for the FEMA grant to purchase a fixed position emergency generator.

It is our intent that financing for the project will be split with \$46,590.64 obtained through the grant and \$11,647.66 from local matching funds. Since matching funds are not part of the approved 2009-10 Budget, we will accept this grant only if the matching funds required of the grant are identified and made available from the current budget at the time of award notification.