

ITEM: Additional Item
DATE: 3/25/08

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR A 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 five grants in the last six years, of which three were successful. The City’s 2008 application will request grant funds to finance mobile data terminals (MDT) for Fire Department response vehicles. The project will benefit our citizens through timely delivery of information critical to safe operations at identified target hazards. By pre-planning a number of buildings within our community, firefighters will be able to act more quickly and effectively after they have received en route information to assist in their efforts.

This project has been part of our Capital Improvement Plan in past years and has been conditional upon receiving a grant for 80% of the anticipated \$87,877 cost. **It is our intent that financing for the project will be split with \$70,301.64 obtained through the grant and \$17,575.41 from local matching funds. Since matching funds are not part of the approved 2008-2009 fiscal budget, we will accept this grant only if the matching funds required of the grant are obtained from the Story County E911 Board prior to any commitment being made to FEMA.**

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 and request local matching funds from the Story County 911 Board.
2. Approve submittal of the application for the “Assistance to Firefighters Grant” from FEMA and identify some other source for the local match to this grant.
3. Deny the request to make application for the “Assistance to Firefighters Grant” at this time. Include funding for this project in a future CIP.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

In past years, the CIP has included the funding for the mobile data terminal project for both Police and Fire response units. As a first step, the City Council recently approved the mobile data terminal project for the Police Department. This first phase utilized all available CIP funds for this project. The FEMA grant would accelerate acquisition of mobile data terminals for the Fire Department. 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 mobile data terminals for the Fire Department.

It is our intent that financing for the project will be split with \$70,301.64 obtained through the grant and \$17,575.41 from local matching funds. Since matching funds are not part of the approved 2008-2009 fiscal budget, we will accept this federal grant only if the required matching funds are obtained from the Story County E911 Board prior to any commitment being made to FEMA.

A request for this E911 funding will be made during the next few months in anticipation of receiving a final decision from the Board prior to making any commitments to FEMA for federal funding.