



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Council Session

Item G-13

#2016-136 - Approving Acceptance of Grant for Fire Training Simulator

Staff Contact: Cory Schmidt, Fire Chief

Council Agenda Memo

From: Fire Chief Cory Schmidt
Meeting: June 14, 2016
Subject: Acceptance of Grant for Fire Training Simulator
Presenter(s): Fire Chief Cory Schmidt

Background

The Grand Island Fire Department (GIFD) and other departments in our mutual aid association struggle to find live fire training opportunities. When Fire Station #1 was built in 2007, GIFD looked into relocating the training tower from its previous fire station location at 302 South Pine to the new station location. The move was determined to be cost prohibitive by administration and the tower was demolished. Since that time, GIFD has been without a training tower.

Discussion

GIFD applied for a regional grant through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program to help purchase a fire training simulator. The AFG program was created to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments. GIFD was notified on May 20, 2016 that their regional grant request was approved. GIFD will be awarded up to \$533,364 towards the purchase of a fire training simulator. The City of Grand Island is required to provide a 10 percent match of the grant funds (\$53,336 maximum). The fire training simulator will be utilized by several agencies in our mutual aid association as well as the State Fire Marshal Training Division. The conditions of usage were outlined in a MOU approved by Council at an earlier meeting on April 26, 2016.

Specific cost of the fire training simulator will be brought to Council for purchase approval in the future. There will be additional costs for ground preparation such as leveling, fencing, concrete, etc. that will be outside the scope of the grant and will be the City's responsibility. It is anticipated to place the fire training simulator south of Fire Station #1 at 409 E. Fonner Park Road.

GIFD struggles to provide adequate training to its department members. In the past, live fire training has taken place in acquired structures donated by their owners. By accepting this grant, GIFD and its mutual aid partners will have access to better, safer, and more consistent training.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the acceptance of the grant from the AFG program for the future purchase of a fire training simulator.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the acceptance of the grant from the AFG program for the purchase of a fire training simulator.

RESOLUTION 2016-136

WHEREAS, the Grand Island Fire Department and other area departments struggle to find adequate live fire training opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) program offers federal assistance to promote the safety of first responders; and

WHEREAS, GIFD applied for and was awarded a grant up to \$533,364 towards the purchase of a fire training simulator.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, to approve the acceptance of the grant from the AFG program for the purchase of a fire training simulator.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, June 14, 2016.

Jeremy L. Jensen, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☒ _____
June 10, 2016	☒ City Attorney