



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Council Session

Item I-1

#2021-54 – Consideration of Approving the SAFER Grant Application

Staff Contact: Cory Schmidt, Fire Chief

Council Agenda Memo

From: Cory Schmidt, Fire Chief
Meeting: March 9, 2021
Subject: SAFER Grant Application
Presenter(s): Cory Schmidt, Fire Chief

Background

The Department of Homeland Security's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program was created to provide funding to fire department to help them increase or maintain the number of trained, "front line" firefighters available in their communities. The goal of SAFER program is to enhance the local fire departments' ability to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by the NFPA.

Discussion

The Grand Island Fire Department (GIFD) has experienced growth in the number of calls for service over the last 20 years (130 percent increase). During that same period, no additional GIFD shift personnel have been added to help address the increasing workload. Financial challenges and the inability to identify long-term revenue sources hindered the ability to add personnel. The SAFER grant application period is open until March 12, 2021. If given approval by City Council, a SAFER grant application will be made. If awarded, the SAFER grant will pay for three firefighters' wages and benefits for a three-year period for a total of approximately \$831,000. Unlike previous years, there isn't a local cost share requirement or a commitment to retain the firefighters once the grant period runs out. Approval by Council is simply an approval to apply for the grant. If the GIFD is successful in securing the grant, Council must also give approval to accept the grant.

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 Grand Island Fire Department efforts to apply for the Department of Homeland Security's SAFER grant to cover the cost of three firefighters for a three year period.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the Grand Island Fire Department efforts to apply for the Department of Homeland Security's SAFER grant to cover the cost of three firefighters for a three-year period.

RESOLUTION 2021-54

WHEREAS, the Grand Island Fire Department (GIFD) has experienced a large growth in the number of call for service over the last 20 years: and

WHEREAS, since 2000 the number of Grand Island's firefighter/EMT's and firefighter/paramedics has remained static; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant awards three-year grants to eligible fire departments to fund additional firefighter positions; and

WHEREAS, the SAFER grant application period is open until March 12, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the GIFD seeks approval to apply for a SAFER grant to pay for three firefighters' wages and benefits for a three year period for a total grant amount of approximately \$831,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the GIFD's request to apply for Department of Homeland Security's SAFER grant is hereby approved.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, March 9, 2021

Roger G. Steele, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
March 5, 2021	☐ City Attorney