

**CITY OF GAUTIER
MEMORANDUM**

To: Samantha Abell, City Manager
From: Patty Huffman, Grants & Projects Manager
Through: Chief Ray Frair, Gautier Fire Department
Date: July 19, 2012
Subject: FY 2012 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)
Grant Application Submission

REQUEST:

The Gautier Fire Departments requests City Council approval to submit an application to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security- Federal Emergency Management Agency for FY 2012 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant funding. Award decisions will be announced for the FY2012 grants no later than September 30, 2013.

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of the SAFER Grant Program is to assist fire departments in increasing their cadre of frontline firefighters. The grants are intended to create a net increase in the number of trained, certified, and competent firefighters capable of safely responding to emergencies within a fire department's response area. The 1st funding priority is the rehiring of laid-off firefighters; the 2nd funding priority is the retention of firefighters who face imminent layoff and/or filling positions vacated through attrition but not filled due to economic circumstances. The 3rd funding priority is for new hires.

\$320,625,000 has been appropriated for the FY 2012 SAFER Grant Program. FEMA has set aside no less than 15% of the appropriation for hiring new firefighters. Grant funding will cover all salary and benefit costs associated with the new positions. There is a two year period of performance. Grantees under the Hiring of Firefighters Activity must agree to maintain the SAFER funded positions as well as the number of positions declared at the time of the award throughout the two year commitment. There is no requirement to commit to retaining the SAFER-funded firefighters after the period of performance, and there are no annual salary limits. The SAFER Grant Program does not require a local cost share or match.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Gautier proposes to use SAFER grant funding to hire 21 new firefighters for the two year period in an effort to be compliant with NFPA Standard 1710 related to firefighter and community safety (minimum staffing of 4 firefighters per apparatus). The estimated two-year budget amount is \$1,884,414.00. Grant applications are due no later than 5 p.m. EDT on August 10, 2012.

RECOMMENDATION:

Fire Department staff recommends that City Council authorize the submission of an application for FY 2012 SAFER Grant funding as outlined above prior to the August 10, 2012 deadline.

The City Council may:

1. approve submission of an application for FY 2012 SAFER Grant funding; or
2. disapprove submission of an application for FY 2012 SAFER Grant funding.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A