

**CITY OF GAUTIER
MEMORANDUM**

To: Samantha Abell, City Manager
From: Patty Huffman, Grants & Projects Manager
Through: Chief Robert Jones, Gautier Fire Department
Date: July 31, 2013
Subject: FY 2013 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 2013 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant funding. Award decisions will be announced for the FY2013 grants no later than September 30, 2014.

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.

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. The grant does not cover the costs of training, equipment, uniforms, or physicals.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Gautier proposes to use SAFER grant funding to hire up to 24 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). Grant applications are due by August 30, 2013. A mentor has been assigned to the City from FEMA to provide assistance with the preparation of the City's grant application.

RECOMMENDATION:

Fire Department staff recommends that City Council authorize the submission of an application for FY 2013 SAFER Grant funding as outlined above prior to the August 30, 2013 deadline.

The City Council may:

1. approve submission of an application for FY 2013 SAFER Grant funding as described above; or
2. disapprove submission of an application for FY 2013 SAFER Grant funding.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A