

DEPARTMENT: Fire Protection

BY: Jim Wilson, Fire Chief

PHONE: 209-966-4330

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Authorize the Fire Chief to apply for FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG). The grants will consist of three separate applications. One of the applications will be presented as a regional project partnership with Mariposa County, Mariposa Public Utility District (MPUD), and six other counties, cities, and districts to purchase vital firefighter safety and operational equipment beneficial to all agencies.

The grants will require a 5% cost share and expenditures proposed in the FY 09/10 budget would meet the match requirement. The 5% cost share for the regional partnership grant will be pro-rated to reflect a proportionate share between participating departments.

The grants will allow the purchase of a driver/trainer simulator, water tender, and various operations and firefighter safety equipment. The grants will require a total cost share of approximately \$19,829 for the County of Mariposa.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

Board has approved grant applications in the past allowing the purchase of new safety equipment and apparatus. Approval is requested in advance of the grant guideline publication to avoid delays in submitting applications.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Forgo an opportunity to purchase new fire equipment.

Financial Impact? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Current FY Cost: \$	Annual Recurring Cost: \$
Budgeted In Current FY? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially Funded		
Amount in Budget: \$		List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Additional Funding Needed: \$19,829		[1-3] Preliminary Request
Source:		
Internal Transfer _____		
Unanticipated Revenue _____	4/5's vote	
Transfer Between Funds _____	4/5's vote	
Contingency _____	4/5's vote	
<input type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		

CLERK'S USE ONLY:

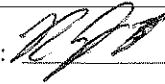
Res. No.: 09-153 Ord. No. _____
 Vote - Ayes: 5 Noes: _____
 Absent: _____
 Approved
 Minute Order Attached No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: _____
 Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
 County of Mariposa, State of California
 By: _____
 Deputy

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Requested Action Recommended
 No Opinion
 Comments: _____

CAO: 

Preliminary Request--Permission to Apply 2009 Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program

Grant Program: The Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program was authorized by Congress and funded effective fiscal year 2001 to assist fire departments with funding major firefighter safety and operational equipment as well as fire apparatus that is beyond the budgetary means of local agencies. It has been an overwhelmingly successful program that has, in the past, benefited both Mariposa County Fire and Mariposa Public Utility District (MPUD).

Background: Currently, the AFG program is divided into two major categories. They are:

- Firefighter Safety and Operations
- Fire Apparatus

In 2006 MPUD submitted a successful grant for a new ICS Type 3 Fire Engine. That apparatus was delivered mid-2007. In 2007, MCFD was successful with four different AFG grants totaling more than \$1.5 million. In 2008 MCFD was successful with three additional grants totaling nearly \$960,000. While there are other large municipal fire departments that have received more money, there is no other fire department in the US that has been awarded seven AFG grants over the past two years.

Final 2009 application guidelines will soon be published with application deadline occurring 30 days later. Per the explanation below, County Fire is proposing three separate applications for 2009. Board policy requires advance permission to apply for grants. However, there is very little time left to actually write the complex narratives.

In 2009, FEMA grant program managers will once again focus emphasis on two primary goals:

- Regional project partnerships
- Firefighter safety

These grant requests will meet both goals.

Proposal: Based on emphasis placed on regional project partnerships, a local agency may participate in as many joint applications as there are members in that partnership. In addition, each local agency may apply individually in both grant categories. FEMA's required local match is determined by the population of the community. Since the total population for Mariposa County is under 20,000, all grant awards qualify for the lowest possible matching percentage—five percent.

Following participation in a regional FEMA conference call and a needs evaluation by senior officers, the local partnership is proposing three grant applications. They are as follows:

1. **Regional Partnership**-Lead Agency to be MCFD: Nationally, annual firefighter line-of-duty deaths (LODD) consistently exceed 100 with twenty-five percent attributable to vehicle accidents going to and returning from emergency incidents. With the pending arrival of 15 new fire apparatus, MCFD has initiated a driver orientation-safe driving training program. However, we need to do more. For many years simulated driver training programs have been successfully used by law enforcement agencies to reduce motor vehicle collisions during emergency

response. In recent years those same simulators have been adapted to Code Three fire engine response. This proposed regional grant will involve multiple counties and agencies. In addition to MCFD and MPUD, participatory interest has been expressed by Merced County Fire (Cal Fire), Madera County Fire (Cal Fire), Mariposa Cal Fire, Tuolumne County Fire (Cal Fire), Kings County Fire, Yosemite NP Fire, Sonora City Fire and Groveland Fire District. The mobile simulator will be housed in a 38-foot fifth wheel trailer containing two state-of-the-art simulator stations and a central instructor console. All participating agencies will have the unit available once or twice each year for intensive driver training. The five percent match will be split equally by all participating agencies.

Total Cost for Grant #1 (including sales tax)--\$426,000

2. **MCFD Application for Firefighter Operations & Safety:** This grant will package several needed operational and safety projects into one request. Those projects are:
 - a. Firefighter Accountability System: NFPA and Cal OSHA both require a formal personnel accountability system be used for all hazardous operations including but not limited to structure fires, wildland fires, hazardous materials operations, and motor vehicle accidents. MCFD has no such system in place. Currently, the Incident Commander uses hand written paper records for accountability.
 - b. Purchase NFPA-compliant Wildland Boots: With last year's successful AFG grant all firefighters now have new or nearly new structure and wildland personal protection equipment (PPE) except wildland boots. In the past MCFD members have been expected to purchase their own boots at their expense. This grant would fund and standardize the final link in safety PPE for all MCFD members.
 - c. Positive Pressure Fans: With extended response times (due to Mariposa County's rural nature) combined with ever more predominant light weight home construction methods and building materials, placing firefighters on a roof to ventilate is not only dangerous, it is now almost always life-threatening. The threat of roof or floor collapse is ever-present. By equipping every first due engine and the two rescue vehicles with positive pressure fans, horizontal ventilation becomes the technique of choice. While the tactic requires additional training, it precludes the necessity of sending a ventilation team on a roof that may not be stable.
 - d. Rotary Rescue Saws: Currently, the only mechanized tool MCFD possesses for forcible entry is a chain saw. Their use is limited when access to steel garage or roll up commercial doors is required. Chain saws also limit access to most commercial structures. This grant will propose purchase of three rotary rescue saws that will be carried by the two rescue vehicles and the Fish Camp engine.
 - e. Turbo Draft Eductors: One for each first due engine. Currently, MCFD's options for securing a surface water supply is limited to drafting and a floatable pump. Drafting requires obtaining an engine position next to the water source and not be more than 15 feet below the pump inlet. Many times that's not possible. Floatable pumps are awkward to carry on the engine and are often left at the station. They also depend on gasoline engines that are not always exercised often enough and may contain stale

fuel that gums up the motor's system. Using the venturi effect, eductors are relatively small and are simple and efficient to use. They also make it very easy to utilize the 2,500 gallon residential water storage tanks now required by the building code for rural homes.

Total Cost for Grant #2 (including sales tax and shipping)--\$99,320

- 3. MCFD Application for Fire Apparatus:** Add a water tender to the system. There is but one water tender currently assigned and available to communities north of the Merced River. There needs to be at least one additional mobile water source available for immediate response to the north county area.

Total Cost for Grant #4 (including sales tax)--\$212,063

Request: As stated above, grant application deadline is rapidly approaching. A considerable amount of staff time will be required to write three justification narratives. Consequently, advance permission is requested to begin work. If one or all of the applications are successful, a preliminary award letter is sent to the local agency. The agency and its elected officials then have 30 days to accept or reject each grant award. In the case of the regional partnership application, all elected bodies would be required to approve the award.

With a five percent match requirement, the FEMA-AFG program offers small rural agencies the best financing leverage available. Without grant funding, it will take many years to replace this equipment.

AFG Budget

<u>Grant Project</u>	<u>Federal</u>	<u>MCFD</u>	<u>Partners</u>	<u>Total</u>
Driver Simulator	404,700	4,260*	17,040*	426,000
Operations & Safety	94,354	4,966	N/A	99,320
Water Tender	201,460	10,603	N/A	212,063
Totals	700,514	19,829	17,040	737,383

* Estimated based on five participating regional partners