

STAFF REPORT

Date: September 25, 2024

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Jackie Bryant, Interim City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Acceptance of the FY 2023 Fire Prevention & Safety Grant (FP&S) award from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to the Reno Fire Department (RFD) in the amount of \$244,054.94 to conduct a wildfire risk assessment and develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and committing a 5% in kind cost match in the amount of \$12,202.75.

From: Samantha Steere, Management Assistant

Department: Fire Department

Summary:

The Fire Prevention & Safety (FP&S) Grant, administered by FEMA, supports fire departments in improving public and firefighter safety by funding fire prevention programs. The Reno Fire Department (RFD) was awarded FP&S funding to conduct a wildfire risk assessment and develop a city-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). This project aligns with the City's priorities of fiscal responsibility and public safety.

FEMA approved a total budget of \$256,257.69, with the grant award amounting to \$244,054.94. A 5% in kind cost match of \$12,202.75 will come from the department's FY24 operational funds. Staff recommends that the Council accept this grant award.

| Consent Review | Yes | No |
|--|-------|----|
| 1. Is this item an annual or standard item that comes before Council for regular approval? | X | |
| 2. Is this item an agreement required based on an item previously approved by Council? | | X |
| 3. Is this item included in the current budget approved and adopted by Council? | | X |
| Other Considerations | | |
| What percent of the total City budget does this item represent? | 0.03% | |

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Fiscal Sustainability

Public Safety

Previous Council Action:

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

Discussion:

Over the past decade, Reno's population has grown by nearly 18%, pushing residential development into the wildland-urban interface and increasing the city's wildfire risk. The last Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was completed in 2005 and was developed to cover all of Washoe County. With the City of Reno's growth and increasing threat of wildfires, the City of Reno Fire Department applied for the FY 2023 Fire Prevention & Safety Grant to create a new targeted CWPP to address wildfire hazard reduction and plans to protect our community.

The new city-wide CWPP will serve as a guiding framework and roadmap for wildfire mitigation, helping to:

- 1) Identify and prioritize future wildfire protection projects, and
- 2) Foster a community-wide, collaborative approach to reducing wildfire risks and hazards to life, property, and natural resources.
- 3) Raise public awareness and enhance residents' understanding of the natural and human-caused wildfire risks that threaten lives, safety, and the local economy.

This plan will be crucial for mitigating wildfire risks and safeguarding citizens, infrastructure, and property.

Additionally, the CWPP will provide additional support and details to the Washoe County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is a collaborative effort that includes multiple regional agencies collaborating to establish a long-term strategy that helps our communities reduce the impact of natural disasters and protect people and property. The CWPP will align with state and federal strategies, offering a comprehensive analysis of fire risks and a long-term approach to managing and reducing these threats throughout the City of Reno.

The project will involve assembling a core team of partners, holding meetings and community events, gathering and analyzing critical data, creating community-based maps, conducting risk assessments, and evaluating evacuation routes. The objective is to produce a robust, actionable plan to address both current and future wildfire risks. The 2025 CWPP aims to enhance the community's wildfire mitigation capabilities and prioritize actionable mitigation efforts and

emergency preparedness.

Financial Implications:

The Reno Fire Department has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$244,054.94. The required 5% in kind cost match for this award, \$12,202.75, is budgeted in the current fiscal year FY 24/25 Fire Department's operating budget (0920-7301-0000).

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law. The City, by accepting this \$244,054.94 grant, agrees to comply with the terms of the grant application, provide project and training information for evaluation to the granting organization, and provide progress and financial reports on program activities, which will be completed by the RFD. Failure to adhere to the grant requirements could affect future funding.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council accept the grant award in the amount of \$244,054.94 and authorize the Fire Administrative Services Manager to electronically sign the acceptance of the grant award contract.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

Exhibit A - Award Letter - EMW-2023-FP-00689

Exhibit B - Application - FY23 FP&S