

## STAFF REPORT

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**Date:** August 14, 2024

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**Through:** Jackie Bryant, Interim City Manager

**Subject:** Staff Report (For Possible Action): Acceptance of the fiscal year (FY) 2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) award from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to the Reno Fire Department (RFD) in the amount of \$790,467.27 to purchase vehicle exhaust removal systems at fire facilities and committing a 10% cash match in the amount of \$79,046.73 using already budgeted funds. (General Fund)

**From:** Samantha Steere, Management Assistant

**Department:** Fire Department

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**Summary:**

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), administered by FEMA, helps fire departments and emergency organizations obtain essential resources to protect the public and personnel from fire-related hazards. The Reno Fire Department (RFD) was awarded AFG funding to replace and upgrade outdated vehicle exhaust removal systems in its stations and maintenance facility, addressing health and safety concerns. This project aligns with the City's priorities of fiscal responsibility and public safety. The total budgeted amount approved by FEMA is \$869,514. The actual grant award is for \$790,467.27. There is a 10% departmental match of \$79,046.73 from fiscal year (FY) 24 operational funds. Staff recommends Council accept the 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
<b>Other Considerations</b>		
What percent of the total City budget does this item represent?	0.008%	

**Alignment with Strategic Plan:**

Fiscal Sustainability

Public Safety

**Previous Council Action:**

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

**Discussion:**

The RFD is experiencing critical issues due to outdated vehicle exhaust removal systems in its stations and maintenance facility. These stations operate 24/7, with over 80 members exposed to hazardous exhaust emissions from emergency vehicles daily. The current setup, including the storage of personal protective equipment (PPE), workout, and medical equipment in the apparatus bays, further increases the risk of contamination and exposure to harmful substances. The fire stations, averaging over 36 years old, lack modern design features such as high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtered ventilation systems and dedicated decontamination and PPE storage areas, increasing the health risks for RFD personnel. Recent inspections and a 2022 Facility Condition Analysis have revealed widespread system failures and the urgent need for repairs, estimated to cost over \$700,000. Immediate action is necessary to rectify these deficiencies and ensure the safety of RFD staff.

The replacement and upgrade of the vehicle exhaust removal systems are crucial for the health and safety of RFD personnel. Approval of the AFG funding request will allow RFD to address this immediate need and enhance the working conditions in its fire stations and maintenance facility.

**Financial Implications:**

The Reno Fire Department has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$790,467.27. The required 10% cash-match for this award, \$79,046.73, 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 \$790,467.27 grant, agrees to comply with the terms of the grant application, provide project 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 \$790,467.27 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:**

EMW-2023-FG-02410 – Award Package