File Number: 170737

US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Application

Gainesville Fire Rescue is requesting approval to make an AFG application for the current program year (FY17). The items below represent areas consistent with the grant criteria as outlined by FEMA and will contribute to GFRs core capabilities for fire management and suppression, Environmental Response/Health and Safety, Threats and Hazards Identification, Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services. The items requested are a Quint Fire Apparatus, Cancer Screening, Community Paramedic equipment, Hazmat equipment, ballistic protection, and firefighter gear and are detailed below:

Grant Item:	**Quint Fire Apparatus**
Request Amount:	$1,000,000.00
Match (10%):	$100,000.00

The fire management plan for SW Gainesville requires incremental increases in services as the FSAA sunsets, annexations occur, and in-fill development adds density and multi-story structures to the area. In reviewing the overall fire and EMS response demand trends and development plans, GFR recommends increasing the City's capacity for heavy rescue and ladder coverage by upgrading the traditional apparatus deployment from an Engine to a Quint. Currently GFR deploys (3) apparatus with aerial ladder capability.

Aerial ladder type vehicles provide advance rescue equipment and our core extrication capabilities. Their primary role is search and rescue functions support of these efforts with various types of equipment; including the high-reach hydraulic ladder (aerial) that is carried on and operated from the apparatus as well as a full complement of intermediate ground based ladders. GFR has (2) two Tower-Ladder-platform apparatus and currently (1) one Quint. Quint units are hybrid vehicles in that they have a base capability of an Engine with an aerial-mounted ladder.

The term "quint" is used to capture the five core capabilities of an Engine AND a ladder truck. The quint is the smallest type of aerial and functions best in suburban areas or to provide support for additional capability to the Tower-Ladders in the urban areas. While Quints have less overall capabilities than a Tower, they are generally less expensive to purchase and operate than Towers and can maneuver and provide for Engine response more efficiently than the larger unit. However, the daily staffing requirements of a quint are the same as a Tower, (4) four firefighters, GFR will be recommending an accompanying Federal SAFER Grant to staff the Quint.

A key factor in deployment and type of apparatus is the ISO grading schedules. This review by this independent entity measures fire risks based on types of buildings needing protection, fire department deployment capability, communications capability, and water system performance. For the past several evaluations, ISO has recommended the City have more aerial capability. The criterion for aerial capability is based, in part, on the number of mid- and highrise buildings in the jurisdiction and how many firefighters can be deployed to these type fires in the required timeframes.

Deploying a Quint for Station 9 over the typical Engine apparatus will meet the ISO requirement and increase the City's score which should contribute to maintenance of the Public Protection Classification of a Two (2) given in 2014. This increase in capability will contribute to the additional points needed to be awarded the best score of a One (1). The next ISO evaluation will occur in in 2019.

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Grant Item: **Wellness and Cancer Screening for Fire Firefighters**
Request Amount: $ 75,000.00
Match (10%): $ 7,500.00

This grant request is to provide enhanced medical screening capabilities for firefighters, including certain types of cancers shown to be of a greater risk.

Research continues to support a link between areas of firefighter occupational exposure and increased risks for specific illness and propensity for several types of cancer. The fire service continues to address key contributors to firefighter death from cardiovascular demands and respiratory related illnesses; however, longer-term issues of cancer are becoming an increasing challenge in the workplace.

A Centers for Disease Control/National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health study found higher rates of cancer in firefighters than in the general population and the World Health Organization has designated Firefighting as a "carcinogenic occupation."

Grant Item: **Community Paramedic Equipment**
Request Amount: $61,000.00
Match (10%): $ 6,100.00

GFRs Community Paramedic program continues to develop and recently benefited from a pilot grant from the University of Florida. The initial data indicate very positive outcomes in directly decreasing demand for high-risk or frequent 911 demands by providing diversion from the emergency care system into more effective and efficient medical care programs. This grant request seeks to support this continued effort with additional medical equipment that will aid in field diagnostic and assessment capabilities.

Grant Item: **Hazardous Materials Team Self-Contained Breathing Equipment**
Request Amount: $55,000.00
Match (10%): $ 5,500.00

GFR provides state-of-art, advanced emergency response to incidents related to hazardous materials. A key component of entering a "hot-zone," where substances create "immediately dangerous to life and health" (IDLH) environments, is supplying the responders with self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

The current SCBA equipment in use by the Hazmat Team is at the end of its service-life and must be replaced. Advances in the technology will improve the time-on-target by increasing the amount and delivery of the air supply and improving the ease of use, weight, and other factors. The improvement in the new SCBA's capability and better interoperability with the firefighting SCBA equipment is needed.

Grant Item: **Ballistic Protection for Firefighters**
Request Amount: $50,000.00
Match (10%): $ 5,000.00

This grant request will provide personal ballistic protection (Fire-Rescue Vests/Helmets) for each apparatus position.

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Recent events in our jurisdiction have heightened our sensitivity to acts of violence towards first responders, specifically fire-rescue personnel. Increasingly, our firefighters are exposed to greater risk from shootings and other physical attacks. The nationally increasing trend of mass shootings and acts of violence is a concern to address by providing ballistic protection designed specifically for the fire-rescue mission. Currently, GFR provides a limited number of vests/helmets on each District Chief (DC) vehicle; however, there is an inherent delay in the DC being notified of the incident and travel time within each district. This deployment approach addresses the barricaded subject or larger response to a mass shooting. It does not address the more common occurrence of domestic issues or exposure of the first-in units to larger incidents. This equipment will be assigned to every seat on GFR response apparatus to assure each firefighter will have available necessary protection to take cover, retreat or employ other tactics with greater levels of protection and security in the early phase of an incident where violence is or may be involved.

Grant Item:	**Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment**
Request Amount:	$27,000.00
Match (10%):	$ 2,700.00

This grant request seeks to provide for adequate decontamination and reduction of contaminates linked to increased cancer risks to firefighters. The funding will enable GFR to provide an adequate number of sets of gear to allow contaminated gear to be cleaned prior to re-use.

GFR provides each firefighter with the best available personal protective equipment (PPE), also referred to as *bunker gear,* that is custom fit/tailored to each person to provide the necessary protection and function during emergency response.

The gear consists of a complement of items consisting of: firefighting coat, pant, boots, and gloves. After exposure to chemicals or products of combustion common to fires and hazmat responses, the gear absorbs the contaminants and, if re-worn without adequate decontamination, will re-expose the firefighters to these risks. Decontamination requires specialized washing and drying cycles and places the gear out-of-service for much of a tour-of-duty.