



## Legislation Text

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### Assistance to Firefighters Grant FY2016 (NB)

**This item requests that the City Commission authorize the City Manager or designee to apply for and, if awarded, accept grant funds from the FY2016 US Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.**

The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated Emergency Medical Services (EMS) organizations, and State Fire Training Academies (SFTA) for critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operations efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience. The application period for the FY2016 AFG Program closes November 18, 2016 and the projected period of performance is March 3, 2017 through March 3, 2018.

Gainesville Fire Rescue proposes the submission of an application that would fund the purchase of portable and mobile radios. The current Motorola portable and mobile radios used by Gainesville Fire Rescue (GFR) are reaching their end-of-life. These radios were originally purchased back in the late 1990s and, with an expected life-span of 20 years, they will reach the end-of-life point in 2018. With Motorola no longer producing our current radio models GFR is starting to experience both technical support and availability issues. Recently GFR has been forced to purchase replacements thru third-party vendors and eBay. Technical Support for these older radios will totally cease in 2018. Replacing our communications equipment will require the purchase of portable radios, mobile radios, and battery chargers.

Project 25 (P25) was produced through the joint efforts of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials International (APCO), the National Association of State Telecommunications Directors (NASTD), selected Federal Agencies and the National Communications System (NCS). Project 25 compliant equipment has a digital platform that is programmable, scalable, and can communicate in both analog and digital mode with other P-25 equipment. The P-25 compliance enhances interoperability, allowing first responders to communicate with each other to coordinate their response to and mitigate all hazards. To overcome the threat of communication failures, GFR needs to replace the portable and mobile communications system that is currently in use.

To completely replace the current system and meet the current and future missions of GFR the following equipment needs to be purchased: 80 Portable Radios with chargers and spare batteries - \$375,000 (estimate) and 25 Mobile Radios - \$100,000 (estimate).

The grant request is for \$475,000. Matching funds of ten percent (10%) or approximately \$47,500 would come from the General Fund fund balance.

The City Commission retrospectively approve the November 17th, 2016 submission of the grant application.