

Issue Analysis Form

Date: January 10, 2023

Item: Staffing for Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)

Lead Department(s): Fire and EMS

Contact Person(s): Paul Beamon



Description and Current Status

The Prince George Fire and EMS Department (hereafter referred to as PGFEMS) is requesting approval from the Prince George County Board of Supervisors to pursue grant opportunities offered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) entitled "Staffing for Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program" (hereafter referred to as the SAFER Program). PGFEMS is seeking authorization to apply for a total of 9 positions under the SAFER Staffing Grant of a three (3) year total of \$2,424,160.00 (\$808,053.00 per year) through FEMA, due February 4, 2023.

During the three (3) year life, the SAFER Grant is funded 100% and covers all salaries and benefits with no cost share or match by the County. The SAFER Grant does not pay for the built-in overtime for the firefighters resulting an expense to the County of \$53,596 per year. At the end of the three (3) year grant period, the SAFER grant discontinues the funding, and the County would then pick up the full financing of the positions estimated at \$861,649 per year.

The PGFEMS career staffing model currently consists of two (2) paid providers located at four (4) stations. The firefighters at these stations operate in a dual function role. Dual function is used when the two (2) firefighters are used to staff more than one fire vehicle. The firefighter will staff the ambulance when a request for medical assistance is made, thereby leaving the fire engine unstaffed and unable to answer calls. When a request for a fire engine is made, the team will take the fire engine and leave the ambulance without any certified members to respond to calls such as chest pain. In a recent review, we found that the career-staffed fire engines are left unstaffed for approximately 142 days out of the year. Our heavy volume stations are currently Station eight (8) and station five (5). The two of these stations account for a total of 85 full days (2,040 hours) of unstaffed fire engines that result in no coverage or delayed responses to emergency calls in those areas. With nine (9) additional career members, we would place the additional members at two of the busiest stations.

Government Path

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Does this require IDA action? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does this require BZA action? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does This require Planning Commission Action? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does this require Board of Supervisors action? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does this require a public hearing? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| If so, before what date? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Fiscal Impact Statement

During the three (3) grant period, there is no cost to the County for salaries with the exception of the built-in overtime that the SAFER Grant will not cover, estimated at \$53,596.00 per year for the nine positions. After the grant period of three years, the County would incur the salaries and benefits of the nine (9) additional firefighters estimated at \$861,649.00 per year.

County Impact

Improve responses to fire and EMS calls and increase the safety of all members in the department. We would reduce the turnover of firefighters and improve firefighters' work-life balance. In addition, with the increased staffing model, Prince George Fire and EMS department improves our ability to meet national stands such as NFPA and response profiles of similar cities and counties in the area. In the last 14 quarters PGFEMS responded to 58 structure fires and meet the national minimum standard for firefighters on scene only 38% of the time.

Notes

Board of Supervisors
County of Prince George, Virginia

Resolution

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Prince George held in the Boardroom, Third Floor, County Administration Building, 6602 Courts Drive, Prince George, Virginia this 10th day of January 2023:

Present:

Floyd M. Brown, Jr.
Alan R. Carmichael, Jr.
Donald R. Hunter
Marlene J. Waymack
T. J. Webb

Vote:

A-12

On motion of _____, seconded by _____, which carried unanimously, the following resolution was adopted:

AUTHORIZE THE FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT TO COMPLETE AND
SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO FEMA FOR SAFER STAFFING.

WHEREAS, the Fire/EMS Department is requesting approval of the Prince George County Board of Supervisors to apply for a SAFER Staffing grant of \$2,424,160.00 (\$808,053 per year) through FEMA, due February 4, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the application totals \$2,424,160.00, for a three (3) year grant period, with no cost sharing from the county in years 1, 2, or year 3. If grant is awarded, after year 3 the County will incur the financial responsibility of the salary and benefits for nine (9) additional firefighter/medics in the amount of \$861,649.00 per year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Supervisors of the County of Prince George this 10th day of January, 2023, does hereby authorize the submission of a grant application to FEMA for \$2,424,160.00, which requires no local match or cost sharing in years 1, 2, or year 3, to add nine (9) firefighter/medic positions with the exception of the built in overtime that is not covered by the Grant in the amount of \$53,596.00 each year. The total County fiscal responsibility over the three years is \$160,788.00 which will require an additional general fund appropriation upon award (Year 1 \$53,596; Year 2 \$53,596; Year 3 \$53,596). The total County fiscal responsibility after the three-year grant period (if awarded) is \$861,649.00 each year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution shall be retained as support authorizing the grant application to FEMA.

A Copy Teste:

Jeffrey D. Stoke
County Administrator