



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: September 16, 2014

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Administration Division, Fire Department

SUBJECT: Allocate Existing Funding For Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Appropriations To Ongoing Major Equipment Needs In The Fire Department

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the transfer of \$340,000 appropriated in the Capital Outlay Fund to the Fire Equipment Replacement Fund to fund ongoing major equipment needs in the Fire Department.

DISCUSSION:

Assistance to Firefighters Grant

In December 2013, the Fire Department submitted a grant application to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the 2013 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program for the procurement of Self-contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment. In June 2014, DHS approved the City of Santa Barbara's grant application and the City was awarded \$591,311 for the grant period June 16, 2014 to June 15, 2015. Council officially accepted this grant on July 29, 2014.

Prior to the award and acceptance of this grant, City Council approved the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget that includes \$462,000 in the Capital Outlay Fund for the purchase of the SCBA equipment. Since preparing the estimated cost of the SCBA equipment included in the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget, the cost of SCBA equipment has increased primarily due to significant improvements in SCBA technology. These important improvements make more air available to fire personnel with the same-size breathing apparatus container currently used by the Fire Department.

Since the Fire Department received the above grant, staff proposes to only use \$122,000 of the \$462,000 appropriated in the adopted capital budget to satisfy AFG City-match requirements and to obtain additional SCBA equipment not covered by the grant.

Fire Equipment Replacement Fund

Historically, there has not been a dedicated funding source for ongoing major fire equipment replacement needs. When the need arises, which occurs on a regular basis for a variety of fire equipment, a one-time funding source must be found. Usually, the General Fund must assume the cost to replace the equipment.

The adopted Fiscal Year 2015 Budget established the new Fire Equipment Replacement Fund to provide a dedicated funding source for ongoing major equipment replacement needs in the Fire Department, such as:

- Radios – portable & mobile
- Microwave radio network & equipment
- Defibrillators
- Hurst hydraulic rescue tools
- Industrial air compressor stations
- Personal Protective Equipment – structure turnout coats & pants
- Station dispatch alerting system
- SCBA equipment

At present, the Fire Equipment Replacement Fund receives a \$13,000 contribution from the General Fund Fire Department budget. To help establish a more substantial funding source for these major fire equipment needs, staff proposes to transfer the remaining portion (\$340,000) of the SCBA project in the Capital Outlay Fund to the Fire Equipment Replacement Fund.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The total cost to replace the SCBA equipment is \$713,311. The Assistance to Firefighters grant covers \$591,311 of that cost. The difference includes a City match of \$65,701 and \$56,299 for required SCBA equipment not covered by the grant, both of which are funded by the SCBA project included in the Adopted Fiscal Year 2015 Capital Budget. After funding the SCBA equipment purchase, an appropriation of \$340,000 remains in the SCBA project in the Capital Outlay Fund, which staff proposes to transfer to the Fire Equipment Replacement Fund to fund ongoing major equipment needs in the Fire Department.

PREPARED BY: Ronald Liechti, Administrative Services Manager

SUBMITTED BY: Patrick McElroy, Fire Chief

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office