



# City Council Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: MARCH 16, 2021

FROM: FIRE DEPARTMENT WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2020 URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE (USAR) RESPONSE SYSTEM COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32,060 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY – SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION

**ISSUE:**

Approve the acceptance of the 2020 Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Response System Cooperative Agreement grant amendment in the amount of \$32,060 from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to increase USAR 2020 from \$1,256,071 to \$1,288,131.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the City Council:

1. Accept the grant amount awarded from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for Urban Search & Rescue Task Force training, equipment, and administrative functions;
2. Upon receipt of the grant award, authorize the Chief Financial Officer, or his designee, to record an increase in revenue and expenditures in an amount equal to the grant award, to the Grants and Restricted Programs Fund 2020 Urban Search & Rescue revenue expenditure accounts.
3. Authorize the increase in Grants and Restricted Programs Fund 2020 Urban Search & Rescue revenue expenditure accounts in the amount of any subsequent amendments for additional funding to this cooperative agreement from the Department of Homeland Security; and
4. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute the Urban Search and Rescue Response System Cooperative Agreement, USAR 2020 grant documents, including making minor and non-substantive changes.

**BACKGROUND:**

Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) is a “multi-hazard” discipline trained to respond to a variety of natural, technological, and man-made emergencies or disasters. The City of Riverside Fire Department’s US&R team is the sponsoring agency for California Task Force 6 (CA-TF6) which is one of twenty-eight National, and one of eight California US&R Task Force teams. These teams respond as either a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or California Mutual Aid resource during emergencies requiring highly skilled search and rescue personnel. Teams have previously been deployed to the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, Hurricane Katrina, Super Storm Sandy, Hurricane Harvey, Irma, Maria, Florence, Michael, Lane most recently Hurricane Dorian.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and FEMA are accountable to provide support and funding for the maintenance and readiness of the US&R program which is fulfilled through the National Urban Search & Rescue Response System Readiness Cooperative Agreement Grant. For 2020, RFD has been awarded \$1,288,131 with a period of performance from 9/1/2020 through 8/30/2023. These funds will be utilized for training, administration, equipment acquisition and maintenance of existing rescue equipment. In addition, a portion of the grant can be used to fund 1.0 FTE Fire Captain, 1.0 FTE Battalion Chief, 1.0 FTE Inventory Control Specialist and 0.90 FTE Account Technician. Due to overlapping grant periods, US&R grants can fund the salaries and benefits of these positions for the entire 2020/021 fiscal year.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This total fiscal impact of this action is \$32,060. No matching funds are required for the USAR grant. City Charter Article XI Section 1103 requires that affirmative vote of at least five members of City Council to authorize a supplemental appropriation. Upon Council approval, an increase will be made to Grants and Restricted Programs Fund USAR 2020 revenue account 9170700-331100 and expenditure account 9170700-440110.

Prepared by: Michael D. Moore, Fire Chief  
Certified as to  
availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer / Treasurer  
Approved by: Lea Deesing, Assistant City Manager  
Approved as to form: Kristi J. Smith, Interim City Attorney