



City of Arts & Innovation

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL                      DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2021**

**FROM: FIRE DEPARTMENT    WARDS: ALL**

**SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2020 URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM  
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$47,918 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 \$47,918 from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to increase USAR 2020 from \$1,288,131 to \$1,336,049.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the City Council:

1. Accept the amended grant awarded from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the 2020 Urban Search and Rescue Response System Cooperative Agreement in the amount of \$47,918;
2. With five affirmative votes and upon receipt of the grant award, authorize the Chief Financial Officer, or designee, to record an increase in revenue and appropriate expenditures in an amount equal to the amended grant award, to the Grants and Restricted Programs Fund 2020 Urban Search & Rescue revenue and expenditure accounts; and
3. Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute the 2020 Urban Search and Rescue Response System Cooperative Agreement from the Department of Homeland Security and USAR grant documents including making minor and non-substantive changes.

**BACKGROUND:**

Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) 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 USAR 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 \$1,336,049 for the period of performance of September 1, 2020 through August 30, 2023. The USAR grant 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 2021/22 fiscal year.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This item contributes to Strategic Priority No. 2 *Community Well-Being* and Goal No. 2.6 – Strengthen community preparedness for emergencies to ensure effective response and recovery.

This item aligns with Each of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – The DHS/FEMA National USAR Program is an established gold standard for emergency preparedness which has helped produce over two decades worth of highly qualified technical rescue fire fighters within the City of Riverside Fire Department increasing community trust in emergency response efforts.
2. **Equity** – Task forces funded by the USAR Program bring a diverse group of professional services to all residents of Riverside and the surrounding communities including emergency room physicians, structural engineers, canine handlers, geospatial engineers, accounting techs, inventory control specialists and fire fighters.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – Through the use of the Department of Homeland Security – FEMA Urban Search and Rescue grant funding, the Fire Department subsidizes costs associated with staff training, department administration, and equipment acquisition.
4. **Innovation** – The City’s USAR Division Chief is the Western Division Representative for the USAR National Program. This unique position allows for enhanced leadership capability where the Division Chief puts a primary focus on the benefit of the city and its residents by engaging directly with DHS/FEMA USAR branch leadership early and often on local, state, and national program matters.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – Equipment recapitalization, fully electronic administrative management/reporting capabilities, new/renewed or revised Memorandums of Understanding with participating agencies and telecommute/virtual trainings have enhanced the program with a wide range of capability, personnel, and equipment which in turn has lessened the overall impact of the Sponsoring Agency.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The total fiscal impact of this action is \$47,918. Upon Council approval, an increase in revenue and appropriation in expenditures in the amount of \$47,918 will be recorded in the Grants and Restricted Programs Fund, 2020 USAR revenue account 9170700-331100 and expenditure account 9170700-440110. No matching funds are required for this grant.

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: Pheadra A. Norton, City Attorney