



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

FROM: FIRE DEPARTMENT WARDS: ALL

**SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2021 NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE
RESPONSE SYSTEM READINESS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$1,333,378 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
- SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION**

ISSUE:

Approve the acceptance of the 2021 Urban Search and Rescue Response System Readiness Cooperative Agreement in the amount of \$1,333,378 from the Department of Homeland Security – FEMA.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Accept the grant amount awarded from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the 2021 National Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Response System Readiness Cooperative Agreement in the amount of \$1,333,378 and any subsequent amendments for additional funding to this Cooperative Agreement from the Department of Homeland Security - FEMA;
2. Upon receipt of the grant award, authorize the Chief Financial Officer, or his designee, to record an increase in revenue and appropriate expenditures in an amount equal to the grant award, to the Grants and Restricted Programs Fund 2021 Urban Search & Rescue revenue and expenditure accounts, by five affirmative votes; and
3. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute the Urban Search and Rescue Response System Cooperative Agreement from the Department of Homeland Security – FEMA, USAR 2021 grant documents, including making minor and non-substantive changes and agreement extensions.

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 USAR 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, and most recently Hurricane Dorian.

DISCUSSION:

The Department of Homeland Security – FEMA are accountable to provide support and funding for the maintenance and readiness through the National Urban Search & Rescue Response System Readiness Cooperative Agreement. For Fiscal Year 2021, the award acceptance will be \$1,333,378 with a Period of Performance from start date 9/1/2021 and through end date 8/31/2024. These funds will be utilized for training, administration, equipment acquisition and maintenance of existing 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 .90 FTE Account Tech. Due to overlapping cooperative agreement periods, the National Urban Search & Rescue Response System Readiness Cooperative Agreements can fund the salaries and benefits of the positions for the entire Fiscal Year of 2021/2022.

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 \$1,333,378. No matching funds are required for the USAR grant. Upon council approval an increase will be made to Grants and Restricted Programs Fund, USAR 2021 revenue account 9173700-331100 and expenditure account 9173700-440110.

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Certified as to
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Approved as to form: Phaedra Norton, City Attorney