



CITY of NOVI CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item C
November 25, 2013

SUBJECT: Approval to apply for a 2013 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for eight (8) thermal imaging cameras with a total potential match of \$7,200 by the City of Novi.

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: Public Safety - Fire *DM*

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL: *[Signature]*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has posted the FY 2013 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responder to obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazard. The AFG awards, which will be distributed in phases, will ultimately provide approximately \$290 million to fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations throughout the country. AFG's goal is to enhance response capabilities and provide for protection of the health and safety of the public with respect to fire and other hazards. The grants enable local fire departments and emergency medical services organizations to obtain training, conduct fire responder health and safety programs and buy equipment and response vehicles.

Applications will be accepted through December 6, 2013. AFG will evaluate each application and score the project from an electronic prescore, and a Peer Review Panelists scores. AFG Grants are awarded on a rolling basis beginning in February 2014. The period of performance is 12 months from the date of award. Grantees must accept the awards within 30 days of the award, and complete the project/activities within the one year period of performance.

AFG has identified the following funding priorities:

A. Fire Operations and Safety

- Firefighter Training
- Firefighter Equipment
- Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment
- Firefighter Wellness and Fitness
- Modification to Fire Stations

B. Fire Apparatus Acquisition

C. Nonaffiliated EMS Organizations

D. Regional Projects.

Applicants may apply for up to three separate funding priorities within the program and will need to provide justification for each individual project.

The Novi Fire Department is seeking approval to submit the following project:

Firefighter Equipment: Replacement of (4) Thermal Imaging Cameras (TIC) and addition of four (4) other Thermal Imaging Cameras. Thermal Imaging Cameras are used by firefighters to detect areas of heat through thick smoke conditions. The cameras greatly increase the likelihood of locating fire victims, missing firefighters and hidden fires. Two of the current cameras are 12 years old; they have exceeded their serviceable life and have had to have extensive repairs. These units are frequently out of service for repairs. One of these units is beyond repair. Throughout the year, the department has had to have the remaining units serviced. Often times, these units are out of service for weeks at a time. This results in the department only having access to two units instead of four. On occasions, firefighters have had to conduct interior attacks without the use of a Thermal Imaging Camera. This situation significantly increases the risks to our personnel. The TIC's newer thermal imaging cameras provide fire crews an important tool for almost every facet of the fire ground; search and rescue, fire attack, search, ventilation, rapid intervention team, HazMat, fire ground overhaul, and more.

Anticipated cost: \$72,000. Novi's grant match (10%) would be \$7,200.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval to apply for a 2013 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for eight (8) thermal imaging cameras with a total potential match of \$7,200 by the City of Novi.

	1	2	Y	N
Mayor Gatt				
Mayor Pro Tem Staudt				
Council Member Casey				
Council Member Fischer				

	1	2	Y	N
Council Member Markham				
Council Member Mutch				
Council Member Wrobel				

MEMORANDUM



TO: JEFFERY JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF EM/FIRE OPERATIONS
FROM: PHILIP DUCZYMINSKI, CAPTAIN/TRAINING OFFICER
SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROJECTS
DATE: 11/14/2013

(P.D.)
11/14/13
To: Mayor & City Council Members
FYI

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program is provided by FEMA and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to enhance the ability of first responders to protect the health and safety of the public from fire and related hazards. The Novi Fire Department routinely competes in this competitive process in order to acquire necessary resources to improve the health and safety of firefighters and protect the public.

Two new items released this year under AFG are new matching requirements, and micro grants. The new matching requirement for populations between 20,000 and 1 million is 10%. The next new item is a voluntary funding limitation known as a micro grant. The micro grants have a federal participation (share) that does not exceed \$25,000. Applicants that select micro grants as a funding priority may receive additional consideration for award.

The AFG process is open from November 4th, 2013 to December 6, 2013. We have reviewed the grant guidelines and funding priorities and have matched our project to the highest AFG funding priorities. The following funding project is being requested for City Council approval:

1. Thermal Imaging Cameras

- Cost= \$72,000
- City of Novi 10% match= \$7,200
- 8 Thermal Imaging Cameras @ \$9,000/each
- The department is seeking to replace the current Thermal Imaging Cameras (TIC's), and place additional TIC's on our squads and rescues.

The goal is to have a thermal imaging camera on all eight of our front-line apparatus. The current TIC's in use by the department are outdated, bulky, and degrading. Many of the current cameras do not hold a charge and are having difficulty warming-up, which delays the crews on scene who are preparing to initiate a rescue or perform other essential tasks. The TIC's measure body heat and help firefighters locate victims in spite of heavy smoke or dim light conditions. The newer thermal imaging cameras provide fire crews an important tool for almost every facet of the fire ground; search and rescue, fire attack, search, ventilation, rapid intervention team, HazMat, fire ground overhaul, and more.