



Fairfield Fire Department

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Administrative Office

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Homeland Security Grant Program

1. Background-

The Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) plays an important role in the implementation of the National Preparedness System by supporting the building, sustainment and delivery of core capabilities essential to achieving the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient nation. The HSGP is comprised of three grant programs, two of which the Fairfield Fire Department are eligible for and have received benefit from: 1. State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and 2. Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI).

Together, these grant programs fund a range of preparedness activities, including planning, organization, equipment purchase, training, exercises, and management and administration across all core capabilities and mission areas.

2. Purpose and Justification-

The purpose of this request is to authorize the Fairfield Fire Department to participate in these programs and receive funds for such participation. Whenever local governments have a change in Chief Executive Officer (CEO), a new Local Resolution must be approved authorizing the CEO to enter into with and deliver any documents necessary to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS).

3. Detailed Description of Proposal-

Whenever local governments have a change in Chief Executive Officer (CEO), a new Local Resolution must be approved as detailed above. The State of Connecticut receives funds from the Department of Homeland Security and distributes them through the DEMHS Region 1. One such program is the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG). Through this program, the Town of Fairfield annually receives a \$0.50 "per capita" population award (\$30,580 in 2019) if certain actions are performed and documentation returned. Specifically, we have to document the work that the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief (who are the Emergency Management Director (EMD) and Deputy EMD) perform in Emergency Preparedness, in Town participation in Emergency Planning and Preparedness Initiative (EPPI) drills, participation in the Region 1 Emergency Planning Team (REPT). The EMD and DEMD serve as liaison between town,

state and federal agencies and Utilities on Emergency Management matters. They also ensure that the Emergency Operations Center is operable, review the Local Emergency Operations Plan each year, and maintain contacts lists and coordination with all Town Agencies and emergency partners.

Examples of expenditures spent in the Emergency Management budget are CodeRED, the Emergency Notification System, which can broadcast a notification town-wide or to a specific neighborhood of routine or emergency situations. This notification may be by landline, email, wireless phone, text and social media. We also expend money to fund CERT, the very active Citizens Emergency Response Team, which last year contributed 1533 hours of volunteer hours in activations, training and meetings. CERT is a program that educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may affect their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as shelter operations, traffic control, fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, the Incident Command System, and disaster medical operations. In addition to being a great volunteer resource for large events such as the Fairfield Half-Marathon and the Town Fireworks, it creates a group of trained partners who help keep their families and neighborhoods safer. Currently the Town of Fairfield has 125 members.

In addition to the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief, the Fire Department uses an Administrative Assistant to help prepare quarterly reports and our Department Planning Officer helps with analyzing Disaster Plans of the area's Dams, Utilities, Nursing Homes, Public Assemblies and High-Hazard facilities.

The benefit of the HSGP to the Town of Fairfield is that we are already performing the functions required by the program. These Emergency Preparedness functions are necessary and related to the Fire Department's mission to protect life and property. The Town then receives the benefit of available Federal funds returning locally to help pay for these necessary expenditures. The HSGP is a financial win-win for the Town of Fairfield.

4. Reliability of Cost Estimate-

N/A.

5. Increased Efficiency and Productivity-

N/A

6. Additional Long Range Costs-

None expected.

7. Additional Use or Demand-

None.

8. Alternatives to This Request-

If the Fire Department does not provide a Local Resolution, the Town of Fairfield would not be eligible for Homeland Security funds and benefits, which neighboring departments would continue to regularly receive.

9. Safety-

N/A

10. Environmental Considerations-

N/A

11. Insurance-

N/A

12. Financing-

None. Only financial requirements are to affirm that 1. That a percentage of Fire Chief and Deputy Chief's activities are spent on Emergency Management activities and 2. That we document that percentage of their salaries as an "in-kind" local share.

13. Other Considerations-

N/A

14. Approvals-

Board of Selectman, Board of Finance, RTM