



# City Council Report

**Date:** September 11, 2014  
**To:** City Council  
**Through:** Christopher J. Brady, City Manager  
**From:** Harry Beck, Fire Chief

**Subject:** 2013 Assistance to Firefighter Grant: Authorization for Acceptance Citywide

## Strategic Initiatives



## Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of the report is to notify council the Mesa Fire and Medical Department (MFMD) was awarded the Assistance to Firefighters Grant. The project award total is for \$2,779,460. We respectfully request council permission for the city manager to execute an agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on behalf of the city.

## Background

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) provides financial assistance to fire departments to support the resources necessary to effectively protect the life and safety of the public and emergency response personnel with respect to fire, medical, and all other hazards. The authority for AFG is derived from the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. §§ 2229 et seq.), as amended. Congress appropriated a total of \$285,625,000 for the FY 2013 AFG.

In October 2013, MFMD submitted an application under the AFG's equipment and operations category. The grant was awarded regionally to MFMD and the Superstition Fire and Medical Department (SFMD). The funds awarded are for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and related equipment. SCBAs are the mask and bottle firefighters wear when entering a hazardous or potentially hazardous environment. Current SCBAs are more than 10 years aged and two National Fire Protection Association standards removed from the current recommendation for SCBA use.

## Discussion

On June 27, 2014, FEMA notified MFMD of an award in amount of \$2,779,460. The Federal share is 90 percent or \$2,501,514 of the approved amount. MFMD and SFMD are required to pay a 10% cost match. The 10% is proportioned by estimated equipment costs requested in the grant application. MFMD portion is estimated at \$235,345 and SFMD \$42,601, which is a combined total of \$277,946.

**Alternatives**

The alternative would be to not accept the agreement and allow for the equipment to be purchased using 100% Mesa funds or not purchased.

**Fiscal Impact**

The Assistance to Firefighter Grant requires a 10% match; therefore, the estimated cost to MFMD is \$277,946 (of which up to \$42,601 will be paid by SFMD) and is budgeted in the department's FY14/15 capital budget.

**Coordinated With**

If the agreement is authorized and accepted, MFMD will work in coordination with SFMD and FEMA to meet all grant requirements.