

CITY OF BUCKEYE
Regular Council Meeting
COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

MEETING DATE: 09/16/25	AGENDA ITEM: 4.N. FIN - Federal Emergency Management Agency - Fiscal Year 2024 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Application
DATE PREPARED: 09/11/25	DISTRICT NO.: All
STAFF LIAISON: Rob Roach, Grant Program Manager, rroach@buckeyeaz.gov, (623) 349-6165	
DEPARTMENT: Financial Services	AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Consent Agenda Items / New Business

ACTION/MOTION: (This language identifies the formal motion to be made by the Council)
Council to take action to ratify and approve the submission of the Fiscal Year 2024 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant application for the hiring of 15 full-time Buckeye Fire-Medical-Rescue Department firefighters to staff the new Victory Fire Station 709, in the total amount of \$ 4,777,253.55, constituting \$2,945,973.00 in grant funds, with a City of Buckeye matching requirement of \$1,831,280.55, over a three-year period from the date of a fully-executed grant agreement; and authorize the Mayor, the City Manager, the City Attorney, and the City Clerk to take the steps necessary to submit the Grant application on behalf of the City of Buckeye.

SUMMARY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Buckeye Fire-Medical-Rescue Department seeks to improve safety within Buckeye through a grant application, which requests funding to support the addition of 15 new firefighters to staff the new Victory Fire Station 709. Buckeye's population growth and increased call volume resulted in the need to plan two new fire stations, expanding service into new areas that are developing residential, retail, and commercial properties, and requiring the Buckeye Fire-Medical-Rescue Department to increase the size of its firefighter staff. If awarded, the grant will cover 15 firefighters' salaries and benefits over a three-year period. After the three-year grant period is complete, Buckeye will have the ability to retain, reduce, or eliminate the 15 firefighter positions.

BENEFITS:

The addition of 15 new firefighters will improve response time by reducing the need for current firefighters to cover other distant response areas. The national average number of firefighters per 1,000 of population is 2.5 firefighters, whereas the Buckeye Fire-Medical-Rescue Department's ratio is 1.14. These positions will assist in reducing the consumption of the Buckeye Fire-Medical-Rescue Department's overtime budget. The addition of 15 new firefighters, as requested through this grant, improves the ratio to 1.27 firefighters per 1,000 people, ensuring high-quality and rapid service to the community.

FUTURE ACTION:

If awarded, the award agreement will be presented to Council for approval. After the grant's three-year funding for the 15 firefighters has been exhausted, Buckeye may retain the full-time firefighters through the general fund budget. If available, the Grants Team will pursue other potential grant funding opportunities to fund these positions. Buckeye will also have the option to reduce or eliminate the positions.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The grant request amount is \$2,945,973.00 with a City of Buckeye matching requirement of \$1,831,280.55. The total project cost is \$4,777,253.55, over a three-year period.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR TOTAL COST:

Nothing is expected to be expended in Fiscal Year 2026. If awarded, the grant funding will be \$2,945,973.00 over three years and the Buckeye cost over three years will be \$1,831,280.55.

BUDGETED:

Yes

FISCAL YEAR:

2027-2030

FUND/DEPARTMENT:

Grant Organization Account/35742140

Items related to a project or facility location must include an attached vicinity map for Council Review.

ATTACHMENTS:

[CAR Recap SAFER Application.docx](#)

[SAFER FEMAGO App Submitted 7.2.25.pdf](#)

[SAFER Wage Worksheet RR.xlsx](#)