

**AGENDA # G.4**  
**Scio Township Board of Trustees**  
**Authorization for the Fire Chief to apply for FEMA's upcoming FY2023 grants.**

**FOR MEETING DATE OF:** November 14, 2023

**PREPARED ON:** 11/9/2023

**PREPARED BY:** Andy Houde

**SUBMITTED BY:** Fire

**ITEM TYPE:** Motion

**BACKGROUND:**

Authorization to apply for upcoming FEMA grants for fire equipment/staffing. These grants are normally issued with approximately 1 month to complete an application and submit the grant. We will not know all the specific requirements of each grant until the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO) is issued, typically at the beginning of the application period. The grant priorities do change from year to year, based on congressional input. FEMA has several grant programs that support fire departments in various ways. Grants awarded do not have to be accepted, however not accepting an award hurts future chances at receiving an award.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant program (AFG) allows applicants to compete for funding for various equipment needs, such as breathing air equipment or response vehicles. We can submit 2 applications for this grant program. We usually request partial funding of a ladder truck in one application and evaluate the highest congressional priorities before determining what equipment to request in the second application. AFG grants have a 5% match for an organization or size, with a maximum cap determined annually and published in the NFO.

If authorized to apply for AFG, we would apply for costs to purchase either a new ladder truck or to replace our water tanker (based on items listed as high priority in the NFO) and for needed equipment (again, based on items listed as high priority in the NFO).

The Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant (SAFER) is a program that supports hiring of firefighting staff for periods of up to 3 years. SAFER grants cover the cost of new personnel and benefits up to the 3-year period, with no commitment to maintain the new positions after the conclusion of the award period. There is usually no matching component with SAFER grants.

If authorized to apply for SAFER, we would apply for 6 firefighters to begin staffing our second station, when it is completed.

The Fire Prevention and Safety grant (FP&S) provides funding for various costs related to reducing fire loss/death in the community. This grant generally has a 5% matching contribution to an agency our size.

If authorized, we would apply for a fire extinguisher training system at a cost of approximately \$14,000. This system would be used in various businesses throughout the community as well as Township staff annually.

The Fire Chief will work with the manager to apply for the most advantageous items from the NFO when they are issued and report back to the board with the application specifics.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Unknown, typically 5% match

**MODEL MOTION:**

To authorize the Fire Chief to apply for FEMA's AFG, SAFER, and FP&S grants.

**QUESTION:** Shall this Motion be APPROVED?