



# *CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT*

---

MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2006

ITEM NUMBER:

**SUBJECT:** FIREMAN'S FUND GRANT

**DATE:** OCTOBER 23, 2006

**FROM:** FIRE DEPARTMENT/ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

**PRESENTATION  
BY:**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** BARBARA P. MARCOSA, MANAGEMENT ANALYST  
(714) 754-5091

---

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

- ❑ Staff recommends City Council accept a grant in the total amount of \$7,800 from, Fireman's Fund Heritage Grant Program, for VHF Radios and Digital Voice Recorders.
- ❑ Approve Budget Adjustment No. 07-039 for appropriation of the grant funds to the Fire Department's operating budget (Attachment 1).

## **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Costa Mesa requested \$7,800 in grant funds, to purchase emergency operations and firefighter safety equipment for the Costa Mesa Fire Department. The City will be the recipient of grant funds originating from Fireman's Fund Heritage Grant Program. With available grant funds, the purchase of the operational communications equipment, listed below, will enable increased emergency scene communications and improve firefighter safety. The equipment has been determined to provide interoperable communication with fire and other emergency agencies, including State and Federal response agencies.

### **VHF Radios**

VHF radios shall be utilized for statewide responses in communicating with state, federal, and other local emergency agencies, during mutual aid responses and large-scale disasters. In addition, these specialized radios will afford the Fire Department capabilities outside of existing Orange County 800 MHz radio communications.

When Fire Department personnel respond beyond the County border on mutual aid responses for wildfires and other disasters, crews will have the ability to communicate with State and Federal agencies, utilizing these programmable radios.

The Department will also be able to utilize VHF radios to outfit existing units that may respond out of County, on multi-agency call-outs. Fire Department apparatus slated to carry the radios include: Mesa Engine 84, Mesa Engine 82 and Mesa Squad 85. One (1) additional unit will be located at Fire Station No. 4, for additional responses by other units.

The BK VHF low band radios are long proven in radio communications for large-scale emergencies. The units are fully programmable and capable of being cloned with incident frequencies from other BK radios, as well as, with other Orange County fire agencies.

Radios of the VHF type will increase communications, which will ultimately increase firefighter safety and effectiveness.

### **Digital Voice Recorders**

The second part of the grant award is for six (6) digital voice recorders. These recorders are similar to those currently used by Costa Mesa Police Department detectives that will be used by Costa Mesa Fire Arson Investigators to interview witnesses and suspects during fire investigations. Digital recording is essential for documentation and evidence collection purposes.

### **ANALYSIS:**

The Fireman's Fund grant will enable the City of Costa Mesa to purchase four (4) VHF radios, along with the necessary accessories and six (6) digital recorders for Costa Mesa Fire Department Fire Investigators, for a total cost of \$7,800.

### **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

No alternatives were considered.

### **FISCAL REVIEW:**

There are no City matching funds required. Receipt of the grant funds will bind the City to the terms and conditions of the grant for use of the funds. Budget Adjustment number 07-039 is recommended for adoption to appropriate the grant funding received to the Fire Department's operating budget for the equipment purchases referenced herein.

### **LEGAL REVIEW:**

No legal review is necessary for this item.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Staff recommends City Council accept a grant in the total amount of \$7,800.

---

BARBARA P. MARCOSA  
Management Analyst

---

STEVEN PARKER  
Interim Fire Chief

---

MARC R. PUCKETT  
Director of Finance

DISTRIBUTION: City Manager  
Deputy City Clerk  
Director of Finance  
Grant Administrator  
Staff

ATTACHMENT: 1 [BUDGET ADJUSTMENT NO. 07-039](#)

File Name: [112106-Firemen's Fund Grant Staff Report.doc](#)

Date: 10/25/06

Time: 5:35 p.m.