



Pompano Beach Fire Rescue

FIRE ADMINISTRATION
MEMO # 18-A105

To: Greg Harrison, City Manager
From: John Jurgle, Fire Chief
Date: June 15, 2018
Re: Fire Station Alerting Grant

As you are aware our fire department's station alerting system will soon become obsolete and incompatible with the new radio and communication system being installed throughout Broward County. The current target date for the systems to be installed and operational throughout the County is the first quarter of 2019. We are under a very tight time line as noted in the attached letter from Bertha Henry, County Administrator. As a result of that timeline and the cost of the system we sought to partner with other fire departments throughout Broward County and apply for an AFG grant, which if awarded, would help cover some of the cost of the new alerting equipment.

Due to the expertise and knowledge of Assistant Chief Brocato in the area of communications, Pompano Beach Fire Rescue chose to take a leadership role in applying for a regional AFG grant by writing and administering the grant. Regional grants receive a higher priority and are looked upon more favorably by FEMA than individual grant requests, thereby increasing our chances of an award.

If funded, our department would be provided four (4) basic alerting systems with 85% of the cost borne by the grant and only a 15% match required by the City of Pompano Beach. The 85% grant amount is estimated at \$185,325.22 with the City's obligation at \$27,798.78. The caveat is the City would have to reserve \$2,664,050.00 to, essentially, serve as the bank for the region. The positive side is that we have been a prior participant in the AFG regional grant for portable radios wherein we received over \$200,000 worth of grant funds to purchase radios

that we were otherwise obligated to buy. In that grant, Sunrise served as the “bank” to facilitate all agencies receiving the grant funds.

The reserved funds noted above would be distributed as the vendor performed the installations of the fire alerting systems, and the City would be reimbursed directly by each participating agency (matching funds) as well as through the grant. It is a virtual impossibility that the entire balance of funds would be required to be spent as it takes a considerable amount of time to prepare, obtain permits, and install each system. It is likely that a given number of stations would be completed in a set amount of time, funds paid to the vendor, and each agency returning their matching portion to the City. Concurrently, the City would be able to receive direct deposit of grant funds as the installations are completed.

Questions and Answers

What is the fiscal impact to the City?

Other than acting as the “bank” the actual fiscal impact would be \$27,798.78.

What would happen if we chose not to participate in this grant?

Ultimately the City would need to fund the entire cost of 4 alerting systems at a total cost of \$213,214. Without this system our stations would not be alerted when needed to respond.

How many other cities are participating in the grant?

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What guarantees reimbursement to the City of Pompano Beach?

Signed MOU’s with participating agencies including FEMA.

How long does it take to get reimbursed by FEMA?

Funds are electronically deposited once paper work is submitted for reimbursement which take approximately 1-2 weeks.

How long will this alerting system last?

Approximately 20-25 years.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any other questions.