

CITY OF YUBA CITY  
STAFF REPORT

**Date:** April 10, 2018  
**To:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the City Council  
**From:** Fire Department  
**Presentation By:** Peter H. Daley, Fire Chief

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**Summary**

**Subject:** 2017 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant

**Recommendation:** Authorize the Fire Department to submit an application to the Department of Homeland Security for consideration of funding under the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant for the hiring of nine limited term firefighters.

**Fiscal Impact:** The estimated local City match for salary & benefits over the three-year period:

18/19 FY - \$186,500  
19/20 FY - \$186,500  
20/21 FY - \$484,900

The will be some overtime savings from overstaffing. Including the City's match cost shown above, net of expected overtime savings, the net cost to the City is anticipated to be approximately \$450,000 over the three year period of the grant.

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**Purpose:**

To maintain current Fire Department staffing levels.

**Background:**

In 2005, 2007, and in 2014 the Fire Department received grant funding under the Department of Homeland Security SAFER Grant. With the 2005 & 2007 SAFER Grant funds, the department was able to hire three limited term fulltime firefighters under each grant to bring the constant staffing levels up to the NFPA minimum standards.

The City Council authorized the submission of an application for the 2014 SAFER Grant as a means of maintaining staffing levels due to the result of budget cuts in previous years that froze six fulltime firefighter positions. Under the 2014 grant award, the department hired nine limited term firefighters. The firefighters were utilized to staff an additional emergency response unit (Rescue 1), which reduced response times, provided additional resources for simultaneous calls for service and enhanced the departments NFPA compliance.

The current grant will expire on August 20, 2018 and the funding for the nine limited term firefighter positions will cease.

**Analysis:**

The 2017 SAFER Grant uses a variable sharing of operational costs. The SAFER Grant will cover 75% of the fire recruit salary and benefits in years 1 and 2, and 35% in year three. The local match required by the City would be 25% of the fire recruit salary and benefits in years 1 and 2, and 65% in year three.

<b>9 FIRE RECRUITS 3 YEARS</b>		
	<b>City Funds</b>	<b>Grant Funds</b>
18/19 FY - 25/75%	\$186,500	\$559,500
19/20 FY - 25/75%	\$186,500	\$559,500
20/21 FY – 65/35%	\$484,900	\$261,100
	<b>\$857,900</b>	<b>\$1,380,100</b>

The proposed nine grant-funded positions will be Fire Recruits, paid at the Fire Recruit salary rate and would remain at that rate for the duration of the three-year grant period. There is no commitment required by the City to hire the grant-funded positions at the end of the three-years. The deadline for submitting the grant application for the 2017 SAFER Grant is April 27, 2018.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Receiving the SAFER grant and hiring nine Fire Recruits will increase costs by \$186,500 in City matching contributions for each of the first two fiscal years (FY 18/19 and FY 19/20) and \$484,900 in the third year (FY 20/21). These additional costs will be partially offset through the savings in overtime due to over-staffing. By hiring nine Fire Recruits utilizing the grant, the first Firefighter or FAO, which is off duty due to vacation, sick leave, etc. will not be back-filled using overtime thereby creating savings (the SAFER employee will keep constant staffing at the minimum threshold). The net cost to the City is anticipated to be approximately \$450,000 during the three-year term of the grant.

If awarded the grant the estimated local City Match for salary & benefits over three-year period:

- 18/19 FY - \$186,500
- 19/20 FY - \$186,500
- 20/21 FY - \$484,900

**Alternatives:**

Do not authorize the submission of an application under the SAFER Grant program.

**Recommendation:**

Authorize the Fire Department to submit an application to the Department of Homeland Security for consideration of funding under the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant for the hiring of nine limited term Fire Recruits.

Prepared By:

*/s/ Pete Daley*

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PD

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TH by email