

**PALM BEACH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: May 6, 2008       Consent Workshop       Regular Public Hearing

Submitted by: FIRE RESCUE

**I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

**Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to:**

**(A) ratify** the Chairperson's signature approving a grant application to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program in the amount of \$1,749,400, including a local match of \$349,880; and

**(B) authorize** the County Administrator, or his designee (Division Chief of Training), to act as the County's representative for the purpose of electronically signing and submitting the Grant Application via the DHS/FEMA website.

**Summary:** The 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program is a competitive grant program designed to provide financial assistance to fire departments and nonaffiliated Emergency Medical Services organizations to enhance their capabilities with respect to fire and fire-related hazards and meet their firefighting and emergency response needs. This grant funds activities under their Fire Department Firefighter Operations and Safety program such as training, equipment, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), wellness and fitness, and modifications to fire stations and facilities. If awarded this grant, funds would be used to purchase 327 National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 1981 2007 compliant Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), one PosiCheck flow testing machine, and one Portacount quantitative fit testing machine. The grant rules require submission of grant applications by electronic format in order to assure an efficient review and competitive scoring of all funding requests submitted under this program. The deadline for submission of this grant application to the grantor agency was April 4, 2008. Due to the preparation time, submittal deadlines, and BCC meeting dates, the grant had to be submitted prior to full Board approval.

Countywide (SB)

**Background and Justification:** Since 9/11/01, the fire service has witnessed the need to protect Firefighters from Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) agents that could be released as a result of a terrorist attack. This is a new risk for local Firefighters. If awarded this grant, in the amount of \$1,749,400, the Department will purchase CBRN-compliant SCBA units (pack, integrated PASS device, cylinder and facemask), a PosiCheck flow test machine and a Portacount quantitative fit testing machine. The SCBA units will provide Firefighters with CBRN respiratory protection. The PosiCheck SCBA flow test machine will allow our SBCA technicians to provide annual SCBA flow tests to comply with NFPA 1852, Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Open Circuit SCBA. The Portacount fit test machine will be used by SCBA Technicians to perform SCBA fit testing for each Firefighter on an annual basis in accordance with Occupational Safety & Health Administration's (OSHA) Respiratory Protection Standard 29 CFR 1910.134(f). This combined process will allow the Department to ensure our Firefighters maintain CBRN protection. Due to the population of Palm Beach County, the Grant Rules require the County to fund 20% of the total grant amount. If awarded funding under this grant program, the grant-matching requirement is \$349,880, which will be funded from the Fire Rescue Main MSTU contingency reserve.

The deadline for submission of this grant application to the grantor agency was April 4, 2008. Due to the preparation time, submittal deadlines, and BCC meeting dates, the grant had to be submitted prior to full Board approval. The approval, signed by the Chairperson, indicated staff would bring this item to the Board on May 6, 2008. If awarded this grant, Fire Rescue will submit an agenda item for the grant award and a budget amendment to acknowledge receipt of the funds.

**Attachments:**

- 1. Grant application and related documentation
- 2. Approval memo signed by the Chairperson

Recommended By: [Signature] 4-1-08  
Deputy Chief Date

Approved By: [Signature] 4-2-08  
Fire-Rescue Administrator Date

**II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS**

**A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

	Fiscal Years 2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Capital Expenditures	<u>1,749,400</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	<u>1,399,520</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>NET FISCAL IMPACT</b>	<b><u>349,880</u></b>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b># ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Is Item Included in Current Budget? Yes \_\_\_ No X \_\_\_

Budget Account No.: Fund \_\_\_ Dept \_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_ Object \_\_\_

**B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

This grant requires a 20% match of \$349,880, which will be funded from the Fire Rescue Main MSTU contingency reserve.

C. Departmental Fiscal Review: *J. P. [Signature]*

**III. REVIEW COMMENTS**

**A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:**

If grant is awarded, a budget amendment will be brought before the Board to acknowledge receipt of funds.

*[Signature]* 4/14/08  
OFMB

VO  
04/14

*[Signature]* 4/15/08  
Contract Dev. and Control

**B. Legal Sufficiency:**

*[Signature]* 4-16-08  
Assistant County Attorney

**C. Other Department Review:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Director

**THIS SUMMARY IS NOT TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR PAYMENT.**