

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	May 2, 2023	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular
		<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing
Department:	Fire Rescue		

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

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

- A) **ratify** a FY 2022 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant application, electronically submitted to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on March 17, 2023, requesting \$8,091,025 to fund 100% in years 1, 2 and 3 for 27 new firefighters, for a term of three years from the date of award;
- B) **ratify** the designation of the County Administrator, or designee, to act as the County's representative for the purpose of electronically signing and submitting the FY 2022 SAFER grant application, including Assurances and Certifications via the DHS FEMA website; and
- C) **authorize** the County Administrator, or designee, to accept, approve, execute and submit, electronically or otherwise, on County's behalf the grant award, representations, certifications, acknowledgments, assurances, standard forms and documents, reimbursement requests, amendments, time frame changes, and other necessary documents, that do not materially change the general scope of terms and conditions of the grant.

**Summary:** This grant application requests \$8,091,025 from DHS FEMA to fund 27 new firefighters to increase the daily staffing of 6 aerial/ladder units from 3 people to 4 people on each unit, as part of a pilot program. The total project cost identified in the grant application is \$8,091,025. There is no required match for this grant for all three years. Due to the personnel coverage factor, the total number of firefighters required is 27. These 27 positions will be eliminated at the end of the grant, and pending a thorough evaluation of the pilot program may be submitted as a supplemental request through the budget process prior to the expiration of the grant.

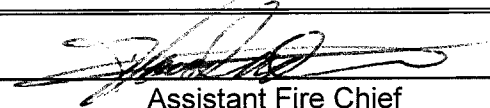
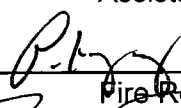
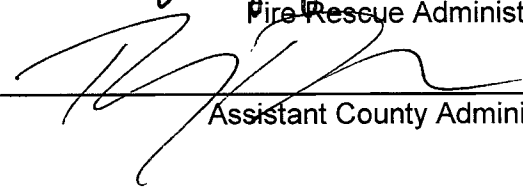
If awarded, the grant will provide funding to increase the daily staffing on each aerial/ladder unit; by implementing this staffing, fewer units will be needed for an initial response, therefore increasing unit availability for concurrent calls, which is essential to meeting national safety standards and mitigating risks to the community through prompt response times and increased unit availability throughout our service area and automatic aid areas. Due to the preparation time, submittal deadlines, and BCC meeting dates, the grant application had to be submitted prior to full Board approval. **Countywide (SB)**

**Background and Justification:** The FY 2022 SAFER Program is a competitive grant program designed to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The SAFER Program provides direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to assist in increasing the number of firefighters to help communities meet industry minimum standards and attain 24-hour staffing to provide adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards, and to fulfill traditional missions of fire departments.

The SAFER Program requires 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 5:00 p.m. on March 17, 2023. Pursuant to Section 309.00 of the Palm Beach County Administrative Code, the Mayor approved this grant application, which now must be ratified by the Board. The grant application includes certifications of compliance with required assurances and certifications, as stated in the application and related program guidance.

**Attachments:**

- 1. FY 2022 SAFER application and related documentation
- 2. Approval memo

Recommended by:		4-5-2023
	Assistant Fire Chief	Date
Approved by:		4.5.2023
	Fire Rescue Administrator	Date
Approved by:		4/20/2023
	Assistant County Administrator	Date

**II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS**

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

Fiscal Years	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	<u>2,692,365</u>	<u>2,877,271</u>	<u>3,049,907</u>	<u>3,232,902</u>
External Revenues	_____	<u>(2,692,365)</u>	<u>(2,877,271)</u>	<u>(2,521,389)</u>	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>NET FISCAL IMPACT</b>	<u>*0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>528,518</u>	<u>3,232,902</u>
<b># ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)</b>	<u>27</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____

Is Item Included in Current Budget? Yes \_\_\_ No X  
 Does this item include the use of federal funds Yes X No \_\_\_

Budget Account No.: Fund \_\_\_ Dept \_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_ Rev Source \_\_\_

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

\* There is no fiscal impact in FY2023 through FY2025. Should the grant be awarded, a budget amendment will be submitted to the Board for approval. At the end of the grant these positions may be funded by the Fire Rescue MSTU, if approved by the Board.

C. Departmental Fiscal Review: Mike Martz

Digitally signed by Mike Martz; DN: cn=Mike Martz, o=Enterprise, ou=Fire, email=Mike.Martz@fire.maryland.gov; Location: you signing location here; Date: 2023.04.11 10:16:04-0400; Page: 1 of 1

**III. REVIEW COMMENTS**

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

Mike Martz 4/11/2023  
 OFMB \$04111 LM 4/11

Ar. S. Jacobae 4/18/23  
 Contract Development and Control  
 MA 4/18/23

**B. Legal Sufficiency**

Ar. S. Jacobae 4/19/23  
 Assistant County Attorney

**C. Other Department Review:**

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

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