

**ROSS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT  
STAFF REPORT**

For the meeting of: December 11, 2013

To: Board of Directors

From:  Roger Meagor, Fire Chief

Subject: Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program applications

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Acknowledge and file staff report on Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) Program applications. There is no action necessary by the Board at this time.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides several grant opportunities for local fire agencies; they include the Assistance to Firefighters Grant, Fire Prevention and Safety Grant and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant. Ross Valley Fire has been the recipient of two Assistance to Firefighters grants. In 2002 the Department received a \$300,000 grant for a mobile live fire trainer and in 2005 a \$186,000 grant for the installation of fire suppression sprinklers and alarm systems at the Department's three fire stations.

**DISCUSSION:**

Since 2001, Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program has provided funding assistance to fire departments for firefighting and emergency response needs, including critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and other hazards.

Last week staff submitted two grant applications, one for the acquisition of 34 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs) and a regional grant for the purchase of cardiac monitor/defibrillators.

**Breathing Apparatus:** The Department's current self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs), which were purchased in 2001, are approaching the end of their service life. A grant application was prepared and submitted by Battalion Chief Jim Hanson. The grant is for the acquisition of 34 SCBAs. The total grant request is for \$309,959 and would require a 10% applicant match.

**Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillators:** Battalion Chief Mike Giannini, with Marin County Fire Department, developed a regional grant proposal that includes all the fire agencies in the Ross Valley, Marin County Fire Department, and the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority (RVPA). Generally speaking, regional proposals are looked

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upon favorably as they promote efficiencies of service and inter-operability. This particular proposal seeks to obtain funding for 28 monitor/defibrillators, service contracts, wireless service for the transmission of data, training and all related accessories. The monitor/defibrillators would replace existing equipment. Ross Valley Fire would receive 8 monitor/defibrillators.

The total grant request is for \$1,137,947 and would require a 10% applicant match. The current defibrillators that are utilized by the Ross Valley fire agencies were purchased and are maintained by the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority. It is the intent that RVPA would again own and maintain the defibrillators. RVPA would be responsible for the 10% match, not Ross Valley Fire.

A regional grant requires that one other participating agency acts as the fiscal agent for the grant. RVPA is not eligible to do so because they are not a fire agency. Because Ross Valley Fire is in line to receive a large percentage of the defibrillators and the fact that we staff paramedic engine companies, Ross Valley Fire has agreed to act as the fiscal agent.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The SCBA grant request is for \$309,959 and requires a 10% Ross Valley Fire Department match. Based on the estimated timing of the grant process, if the Department was to be award the grant, the purchase and the expenditures of the matching funds, \$30,996, would occur in Fiscal Year 2014/15.

The Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillators grant request is for \$1,137,947 and requires a 10% match. It is anticipated that the \$113,794 match will be significantly offset by the sale of the existing defibrillators, and any portion of the match that is not offset will be funded by RVPA, Marin County Fire and Corte Madera Fire, not Ross Valley Fire Department.