

HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUBJECT: Habersham County Emergency Services Permission to Apply for the 2021 FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant

DATE: March 15, 2021

(X) RECOMMENDATION

() POLICY DISCUSSION

BUDGET INFORMATION:

() STATUS REPORT

ANNUAL- \$593,243.42 (Over 3 Years)

() OTHER

CAPITAL-

COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON: March 15, 2021

PURPOSE:

Recommend Habersham County Commission approval for Habersham County Emergency Services to apply for the FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant "SAFER" for 9 new Firefighters.

BACKGROUND / HISTORY:

This grant has been utilized by departments in need of additional staffing to help offset the cost for the first three years, the county would pay only 25% of the salaries and benefits for the first two years, and 65% for the third, with 100% being incurred the following fourth and subsequent years.

FACTS AND ISSUES:

- a. HCES has 5 Fire Engines that are currently staffed with only 1 person.
- b. Having the ability to hire 9 new personnel would improve response, safety, and overall operations for all types of emergency scenes.
- c. Enable HCES to come closer to meeting the NFPA Standard 1710, Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments and NFPA 1720, same as 1710 but by Volunteer Departments.
- d. Will help with future ISO for the county in having more manpower on scenes for the initial response therefore creating potential for lower rating and lower insurance premiums for the citizens of Habersham County.
- e. Total cost would be salary and benefits \$1,547,691.67 over three years, first two years the Federal Government would pay 75% of the total cost, \$773,794 and Habersham County 25%, \$257,931.90. Third year, Federal Government would pay 35% of total cost, \$180,552.33 and Habersham County 65%, \$335,311.52. Fourth years and subsequent Habersham would be responsible for total salary and benefits.
- f. Having only 1 person on a fire engine is unsafe and puts personnel in dangerous situations when arriving first on scene of all emergency scenes, especially structure fires.

OPTIONS:

- 1) Approve the request for Habersham County Emergency Services to apply for the 2021 FEMA SAFER Grant to hire 9 additional firefighters for staffing two additional fire engines with 2 personnel.
 - 2) Deny the request to apply for the SAFER Grant.
 - 3) Commission defined alternative.
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RECOMMENDED SAMPLE MOTION:

Move to approve Habersham County Emergency Services to apply for the 2019 FEMA SAFER Grant to hire 9 new firefighters to improve daily shift staffing.

DEPARTMENT:

Prepared by: Chad Black

Director _____

ADMINISTRATIVE

COMMENTS: _____

_____ **DATE:** _____

County Manager
