

HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUBJECT: Habersham County Emergency Services Permission to Apply for the 2022 (FY21) FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant

DATE: 01/20/2020

(X) RECOMMENDATION

() POLICY DISCUSSION

BUDGET INFORMATION:

() STATUS REPORT

ANNUAL- \$1500.00 **100-384-511619 Per Call Part For Vol. Responder () OTHER**

CAPITAL-

COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON: January 20, 2022

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 21 new Firefighters.

BACKGROUND / HISTORY:

The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) was created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to help them increase or maintain the number of trained, "front line" firefighters available in their communities. This grant has been utilized by departments in need of additional staffing to help offset the cost for the first three years. This year's grant offer is 100% for the first 3 years, the Performance Period of the grant. The calculated amount of \$2,135,417.70 for 15 personnel.

FACTS AND ISSUES:

- a. HCES has 5 Fire Engines that are currently staffed with only 1 person.
 - b. Having the ability to hire 21 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 including salary and benefits is \$2,968,584.78 over three years.
 - 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.
 - g. Given the recent state of applications being submitted, these positions are intended for individuals with no training. The first 6 weeks, the individuals would attend Firefighter 1
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classes, followed by 6 months of Emergency Medical Technician instruction. At end of both instructional sessions, the employees would be Fire and EMT certified. A mechanism (contract) will be in place for the employee to remain employed with the county for a 3-year period following completion of the training and certification.

- h. If awarded the grant, an additional \$5000.00 will be owed to the grant writer, JMCM Consulting, LLC.

OPTIONS:

- 1) Approve the request for Habersham County Emergency Services to apply for the 2022 FEMA SAFER Grant to hire 21 additional firefighters for staffing 5 (five) 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 2022 FEMA SAFER Grant to hire 21 new firefighters to improve daily shift staffing.

DEPARTMENT:

Prepared by: Jeffrey D. Adams

Director: _____

**ADMINISTRATIVE
COMMENTS:** _____

_____ **DATE:** _____

County Manager
