



Public Works and Safety Committee
Standing Committee Meeting Agenda
Monday, February 26, 2024
5:00 PM

Location: Hybrid

We invite you to view the meeting in person in the 5th Floor Conference Room, Suite 515, Municipal Office Building, 701 N. 7th Street, Kansas City, Kansas, or virtually via a Zoom webinar.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86823240590>

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Name

Absent

Commissioner Tom Burroughs, Chair

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Commissioner Mike Kane

☐

Commissioner Chuck Stites

☐

Commissioner Bill Burns

☐

Commissioner Phil Lopez

☐

Rose Henry, BPU Board Member

☐

I.

Call to Order/Roll Call

II.

Revisions to February 26, 2024 Agenda

III.

Approval of standing committee minutes from (no minutes available)

IV. Committee Agenda

**Item No. 1 - GRANT: FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS**

Synopsis: Approval of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of the KCK Fire Department in the amount of \$146,006.60, submitted by Dennis Rubin, Fire Chief. Matching funds will come from current budgeted funds.

Tracking #: 212967

V. Public Agenda

VI. Adjourn



Report to

MEETING DATE	PRESENTER	DEPARTMENT
	Dennis Rubin, Fire Chief drubin@kckfd.org X5951	Fire Department
AGENDA ITEM #		
GRANT: FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS		
SYNOPSIS		
BACKGROUND		
The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and non-affiliated emergency medical service organizations. Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training and other resources necessary for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.		
RECOMMENDATION		
Approve Approval requested by the fire department.		
BUDGET IMPACTS / FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS		
Value of this AFG grant is 146,006.60. There is a 10% match. Match funding will come out of budgeted funds. No new money (cost) for this project. Budget Neutral.		
IT/POLICY CONSIDERATIONS		
All U.S. Public safety agencies have been mandated to be National Incident Management System (NIMS). With these funds, KCKFD will be able to reach this federal mandate.		
PROCUREMENT CONSIDERATIONS		
no procurement activity needed for a Federal Grant		
LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS		
Federal grant process, legal review not necessary		
ATTACHMENTS		
AFG application narrative-Chief Rubin		

Approved by Mayor and Administrator to add to agenda:

[Signature] 2/9/2024
[Signature] 2/9/2024

David Johnston, County Administrator

Dated:

Critical Infrastructure

Kansas City, Kansas, has a wide array of critical infrastructure and essential resources that are potential terrorist targets. The critical infrastructures and essential resources are physical and cyber-based and span all sectors of our economy. Our critical infrastructure and key resources provide the essential services that underpin American society. We possess numerous essential resources whose exploitation or destruction by terrorist, disasters, both natural and manufactured, could cause catastrophic health effects or mass casualties comparable to those from the use of a weapon of mass destruction or could have a debilitating impact on security and our economic well-being. Terrorists seek to destroy, incapacitate, or exploit critical infrastructure and essential resources across the United States to threaten national security, cause mass casualties, weaken our economy, and damage public morale, and confidence. While it is impossible to protect or eliminate the vulnerability of all critical infrastructure and essential resources throughout the city, we strive to protect the below listed assets to the best of our capabilities. We protect three coal-fired electrical power generating stations, two major natural gas generating stations, two regional hospitals with a capacity of 1190 beds, including a Level I trauma center, the second largest rail hub in the United States, serves as a terminal railroad for five Class I owners: Union Pacific, BNSF, Kansas City Southern, Norfolk Southern, and Canadian Pacific—major interstate natural gas transmission pipelines, petroleum storage facilities, and chemical processing plants. KCKFD protects our county-wide Emergency Operations Center (EOC), a backup to surrounding counties. Also, included is the Wyandotte County Jail complex and a juvenile detention center. The University of Kansas Medical Center Mental Health Institute has two ambulatory surgery centers. Four Interstate highways. The Board of Public Utilities Water treatment and distribution plant Wyandotte County Reservoir Dam Confluence of the Kansas and Missouri rivers. The Kansas Speedway NASCAR race track The Children's Mercy Park Kansas City Soccer Stadium Compass Minerals National Performance Center Soccer Complex, Legends Field Minor League Baseball Stadium, 34 industrial and warehouse facilities, to include two Amazon mega warehouses and distribution centers. As mentioned, it is impossible to protect or eliminate the vulnerability of all critical infrastructure and essential resources throughout the city; we strive to protect the assets to the best of our capabilities.

Describe your financial need.

Our government lacks the funds to allow our department to acquire the Blue Card Command training certification program or much else. Due to the Unified Government's financial stress, KCKFD will only be able to reach the requirements of this federally mandated program if external funds such as grant funding are obtained. We have applied to other funding opportunities with no success. We have outlined our financial distress below. The KCKFD operating budget for 2023 was \$78,383,574, funded through the general fund (67%), a 3/8 cent Public Safety and Neighborhood Infrastructure sales tax (8%), and the Proprietary Fund - EMS revenue (19%). Our personnel expense, including benefits, was \$60,040,209, 82% of our budget. Contractual services (training, travel, legal, copier, telephones, etc.) accounted for \$2,304,985 or 3%. Commodities (fuel, office supplies, etc.) accounted for \$2,557,406 or 3%. Capital Outlay (fire apparatus, ambulances, heart monitors, tools, etc.) accounted for \$5,387,483, or 7%. Grant claims and shared revenue, including donations, accounted for \$597,218, or 1%. A non-expense item that occurs every year is the operating transfer that goes directly to the general fund for repayment of the start-up cost of the ambulance service, which is \$2,256,000 or 4% of the budget.

After personnel costs are subtracted, there are insufficient monies to pay for all vehicles, equipment, building maintenance and renovation, fuel, medical supplies, and equipment needed for the various divisions within our department. A continual, ill-advised experiment by our state executive and state legislature resulted in a lack of state revenue for local governments. Tax cuts at the state level meant less money passed down to local governments, where services were reduced because of the lack of state funding. Local governments were forced to make up the difference or cut local funding. Increases in insurance premiums in our personnel benefit package resulted in more expenditures for personnel costs and a reduction in benefits. Additionally, minimal cost of living raises for our firefighters, while well deserved, increased the budget. To increase the revenue stream, the KCKFD has made a concerted effort to obtain more total reimbursement for ground emergency transports. The KCKFD has been involved with the Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs in pursuing supplemental reimbursement for Medicaid ambulance transports (Ground Emergency Medical Transportation, GEMT per CMS). The State Legislature passed GEMT legislation last year, and we are now in discussion with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). In 2020, the Unified Government decreased our operating budget by \$3,968,659 to offset the personnel cost for increased overtime due to COVID-19. There are no other means to secure funding for this project.

DEPARTMENT HISTORY

The Kansas City Kansas Fire Department is committed to excellence in providing our community the highest level of service in fire prevention, fire suppression, emergency medical services, public education, and all-hazards response. We are committed to being highly trained to maintain our status-readiness. We will be highly motivated, enthusiastic about our mission, and eager to help others. We must be determined to do the right thing as persistent, driven, and dedicated Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department members. The interaction between the KCKFD and the public will always emphasize Respect, Understanding, Compassion, Patience, and Trust. The Kansas City Kansas Fire Department (KCKFD) was established on May 1, 1880, with a single steam fire engine in one fire station. Over the years, our department has significantly expanded its operations. Currently, there are a total of 475 personnel authorized. These numbers include both sworn and civilian members.

KCKFD comprises nine divisions: Administration, Operations/Suppression, EMS, Support Services, Vehicle Maintenance, Training, Special Operations, Communications, and Prevention. The Special Operations Division's Services include Hazardous Material Teams, Urban Search and Rescue, and Swift Water Rescue. KCKFD has 18 stations, housing 23 companies and nine EMS units. Kansas City, Kansas, encompasses many uniquely different urban, industrial and suburban communities. The varying communities amplify the vastly different fire and EMS challenges encountered by the KCKFD, including a wide variety of commercial and industrial hazards, high-rise structures, and obstacles related to a densely populated city. Wyandotte County has a population of 167,046 and covers 156 sq. miles. Kansas City, Kansas, has a population of over 154,804 and is the third largest city in Kansas. The city is surrounded by federal interstate highways and railroads that move hundreds of thousands of commuters and hazardous materials of all types to and through America's heartland daily. Our department responds to over 33,000 calls for service annually, which is about 100 daily emergencies. KCKFD request for response service escalates an average of 3 to 5 percent yearly.

ORGANIZATIONAL NEED FOR COMMAND TRAINING

FEMA states that the National Incident Management System (NIMS) guides all levels of government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to work together to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from incidents.

NIMS provides stakeholders across the community with the shared vocabulary, systems, and processes to successfully deliver the capabilities described in the National Preparedness System. NIMS defines operational systems that guide how personnel work together during incidents. This training will bring us into compliance with NFPA 1561, Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System and Command Safety.

Unfortunately, our department has had a limited to nonexistent commitment to continuing education and training on the National Incident Management System (NIMS). There have been attempts to conduct classes in incident command within our department, but we have not had consistency in the training. The Blue Card Command training program is essential for our department to become compliant, allowing our personnel to adhere to the National Incident Management System, a federal mandate. The Blue Card Command program enables our department to teach our personnel consistently and effectively. Our department's ability to send individuals to the Blue Card Command train-the-trainer class will allow KCKFD to reach NIMS compliance. Using the Blue Card system, we can offer consistent and recurring training focusing on Firefighter Safety. The KCKFD Blue Card Command Training Program will be offered to regional fire departments that may need ICS training. KCKFD has an automatic response plan with two cities and one county. Using the exact Blue Card Command System will provide a seamless process to manage fires and other emergencies effectively. Departments that request training (outside our automatic aid partners) will be given the same training opportunity based on KCKFD receiving the Assistance to Firefighters Grant.

Please explain how your department is facing a new risk, expanding service to a new area, or experiencing an increased call volume.

We opened a fire station in a high-risk, low-frequency industrial area. Without this station, we would not meet the NFPA 1710 response standard. The high-risk district is the immediate first due response for providing advanced life support, water supply, and hazard mitigation to a predominately industrial area. Many businesses in this district have 24-hour work schedules seven days a week, with some companies having 3,500 staff or more per work shift. The opening of this station will enhance our NFPA 1710 response time and increase the overall response to the community and stakeholders.

KCKFD is experiencing increased call volume due to escalations in automatic and mutual aid fires and population growth in our region.

The new and emerging risks for KCKFD are centered around our community growth. Many new apartment projects are under construction, along with significant commercial enterprises, which are in the construction process. These residential occupancies will add over 1,000 new families to the city's western section. Also, twice a year, the sports world focuses on Kansas City, Kansas, as we host a spring and fall NASCAR race. KCK is a part of the World Series of auto racing at the fall event. Over 45,000 people will attend each of these two high-profile sporting events. Significant risks on the horizon for KCK are current buildings that are under construction. The American Royal Corporation project will host dozens of buildings associated with livestock, commercial and competitive cooking, and related research. The other new risk project is known as Homefield, which is a vast sweeping sports complex that is about 20% complete. It is

described as a major attraction and destination in the Midwest. Many baseball fields, bowling, Top Golf, a Margaritaville, several other restaurants, a large conference hotel, and many more attractions are included.

Kansas City (MO) will host the FIFA 2026 World Cup Soccer. The impact of World Cup 2026 will be significant for KCK, as we will host hundreds of world-class soccer players in the city. Thousands of international visitors, guests, and worldwide media outlets will use our hotels and motels for over 60-90 days.

It is essential for the successful and safe management of any emergency incidents, especially for the new risks associated with community growth and sponsoring world-class events, that KCKFD becomes NIMS compliant. The key for KCKFD to reach compliance with the National Incident Management System is obtaining a Blue Card Command AFG Grant to train and certify our staff.

Cost Benefit

Our department will benefit significantly from the Blue Card Command Certification Program because its state-of-the-art training and certification system teaches Company and Command Officers how to standardize local incident operations. The program uses a blended learning experience of online and in-class simulation training, focusing on the five major structural types that fires typically occur in (i.e., single-family residential, multi-unit residential, commercial, strip mall, and big box occupancies). This remarkable training program provides a solution for Incident Commanders that addresses local Hazard Zone operations. Blue Card Command Certification is the only actual Incident Command "certification" program available to the fire service; it is designed to first instruct, train, and then evaluate and certify fire officers who serve as Incident Commanders. The program uses a curriculum or standard training and certification system that defines the best Standard Command Practices for an Incident Commander to manage a local NIMS Type 4 and 5 Hazard Zone. Total cost of this training for 182 members is \$146,006,60. There is a high benefit to the cost incurred because our members, who are properly trained, will improve their knowledge, skills, and abilities in their command role during incidents. The cost versus benefits equates to \$802 per student, which is minimal, considering this knowledge will be utilized throughout a career. This benefit will allow our officers and acting officers to operate with higher confidence and safety awareness, improving operational efficiency and saving lives and property in our community due to fire and related incidents. The budget cost justification for this project is small compared to the knowledge spread across our organization and the high benefit it provides with the life safety aspect it represents by educating our leaders and future leaders. The cost of our project is very reasonable based on our department's leadership needs. This command leadership training project meets and, in many cases, exceeds the NFPA 1561 Standard for Emergency Services Incident Management.

Statement of Effect

The effect of this award is the improvement in our department's incident management leadership abilities, which increases firefighter safety, and the reduction of loss of life and property will be evident on several fronts. At the fundamental core, the added scene management and organization will significantly benefit our firefighters by much better-managed operations. The members who attend this training will gain the knowledge, skills, and abilities to be better prepared to meet the needs of our incident command and NIMS. This award will improve our daily incident operations significantly. Accountability is key. Structured command understands the need for personnel accountability and the need to continually monitor on scene resources. The better organized and managed incident scene keeps firefighters safer and provides peace of mind, knowing the situational risks are proactively being addressed. Incident scene management is critical to every operation. Structured Standard Command Practices for joint, local, everyday Strategic, and Tactical emergency operations conducted. This training and certification program produces Incident Commanders who make better decisions that potentially eliminate the lethal and costly mistakes that cause injury, death, and unnecessary fire losses in the local response area. Organized command operations increase the effectiveness of operations and commit to more personnel safety.