



**TO: LINDA GORTON, MAYOR
URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL**

**FROM: THERESA REYNOLDS, DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF GRANTS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2024

SUBJECT: U.S. Department of Homeland Security Grant Application under the 2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for Division of Fire and Emergency Services

Request: Council authorization to submit an application and accept if offered to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security under the 2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program to request federal funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 to host a paramedic training course.

Purpose of Request: FEMA has determined that hands-on, instructor-led training that meets national, state, or DHS adopted standards and results in a national or state certification provides the greatest training benefit and is considered a high priority per the 2023 AFG Notice of Funding Opportunity. The Lexington Fire Department has worked diligently to become an accredited organization through CAAHEP to provide in-house paramedic-based training leading to state and national certifications. Our program has roughly a 95% success rate of bridging EMT-B's to Paramedics in as little as one year and successfully trains skilled paramedics to respond to medical emergencies in our community. However, this comes with high overtime costs for the students to attend training and backfill their positions, in addition to all other ancillary expenses and fees to complete the certification. The opportunity to apply for this grant will cover the costs associated with providing training and certification for 27 new paramedics, allowing funding to be reallocated elsewhere.

What is the cost in this budget year and future budget years? If the grant is approved, federal funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 will be awarded, requiring a 10% match of \$100,000.

Are the funds budgeted? A budget amendment will be completed if approved.

File Number: 0157-24

Director/Commissioner: Wells/Armstrong

