



Fire Department – FEMA SAFER Grant
Chuck Cerasoli, Fire Chief

- Apply for the SAFER Grant to hire four FT FF/EMT positions (staff recommendation)

- Apply for the SAFER Grant to hire two FT FF/EMT floater positions

Fire Department Staffing Goal:

- 12 FF's per shift
 - Downtown District staffed w/ Fire Engine and Ambulance
 - Mountain Station Staffed w/ Fire Engine and Ambulance
- Would require up to 18 new FT Firefighters
 - 4 FF's/shift x 3 shifts = 12-shift FF's
 - 4 FF's acting as "floaters" (2 current vacant, 2 additional)
- Stagger implementation of staffing to reduce one time impact
- Work to improve daily staffing ASAP

Staffing for Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)

- *...assist in increasing the number of FF's to help communities meet industry minimum staffing and attain 24-hour staffing...*
- *...to hire new, additional firefighters, rehire laid off firefighters, or to retain firefighters facing layoff.*
- Pays 100% of personnel costs for three years with no further commitment from City of Steamboat Springs
 - Does not cover any additional operating costs
 - Does not cover additional OT expenses
 - Future commitment - \$100,000/FF annually (personnel and operating)

Funding Priorities:

- *...should improve a local fire department's ability to comply with the staffing, response, and operational standards that enhance community and firefighter safety.*
- *...largest percentage increases in compliance with the relevant section receive higher scores...*
- SAFER Primary focus is response to residential house fires with 16 FF's
 - How often do we currently meet this?
 - How will the grant help?

Case for two FT FF/EMT's "floaters"

- Help prevent reduction of minimum staffing levels to seven
- Add two FF/EMT's to overall number of staff available to respond to structure fires
- Not a significant step towards meeting NFPA standard
- Operational cost implications
 - \$100,000 in year 1 - (primarily in equipment and training)
 - \$30,000 subsequent years

Case for four FT FF/EMT's

- Increase response capability
 - Additional FF/shift and one “floater” to assist with OT costs
- Help prevent reduction to a minimum staffing levels to seven
- Additional personnel for call back response to structure fire
- Will be a larger step towards NFPA standard
- Operational cost implications:
 - \$136,000 in year 1 - (equipment and training)
 - \$60,000 in subsequent years

Other implications of SAFER Grant:

- Delay in hiring of new FF's
- Additional personnel to address normalizing budget
 - Operational budget implications
 - Personnel pay and step plan stabilization

How to proceed if unsuccessful with SAFER application

- Hire four FT FF/EMT's utilizing mill levy funds
- Hire two FT FF/EMT floaters utilizing mill levy funds
- Forgo hiring any FT FF/EMT's
 - Apply for grant in 2022

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- Apply for the SAFER Grant to hire two FT FF/EMT floater positions