

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: April 16, 2008

Division: Emergency Services

Bulk Item: Yes No

Department: Fire Rescue

Staff Contact Person: Susan Hover

AGENDA ITEM WORDING: Approval of Resolution authorizing Monroe County Fire Rescue to enter into a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Agreement with U.S. Department of Homeland Security, if awarded and commit to the 5-year SAFER grant program requiring graduated county match funds for hiring 14 firefighters to improve fire rescue service delivery, and authorization for the County Administrator to execute all related grant documents during term of grant.

ITEM BACKGROUND: The SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant was created to provide funding directly to fire departments to increase the number of trained, "front-line" firefighters available in their communities. The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by NFPA and OSHA (NFPA 1710 and/or NFPA 1720 and OSHA 1910.134). The five-year grant pays a portion of the salaries of newly hired firefighters. These newly hired positions must be in addition to authorized and currently funded firefighter positions. Grantees must maintain the number of authorized and funded positions as declared at the time of application in addition to the awarded new firefighter positions throughout the period of performance (five years). Grantees that fail to maintain this level of staffing are at risk of losing all or a portion of the grant award. The grant requires Monroe County to match an increasing proportion of the salary over a four-year period, with the fifth year funding the entire cost of grant positions.

Monroe County Fire Rescue has applied for a SAFER grant for 14 firefighter positions and needs a commitment from the Board of County Commissioners for the match portion of the grant in order to proceed in the application process.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION: None.

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES: N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Approval

TOTAL COST: \$ 5,481,869* over 5 years **BUDGETED:** Yes No

*Year 1: \$953,246; Year 2: \$1,019,973; Year 3: \$1,091,371; Year 4: \$1,167,767, Year 5: \$1,249,511

Of the total, \$1.9 million will be funded with grant funds from the U.S. Dept of Homeland Security

COST TO COUNTY: \$ 3,584,219** over 5 years **SOURCE OF FUNDS:** **

**Year 1: \$270,146; Year 2: \$412,833; Year 3: \$711,931; Year 4: \$939,797, Year 5: \$1,249,511 through ad valorem or non-ad valorem fire assessment

REVENUE PRODUCING: Yes No **AMOUNT PER MONTH** **Year**

APPROVED BY: County Atty CUH OMB/Purchasing Risk Management

DOCUMENTATION: Included Not Required

DISPOSITION: **AGENDA ITEM #**

RESOLUTION No. - 2008

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY FLORIDA AUTHORIZING MONROE COUNTY FIRE RESCUE TO ENTER INTO A STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT AGREEMENT WITH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND COMMIT TO THE 5-YEAR SAFER GRANT PROGRAM REQUIRING GRADUATED COUNTY MATCH FUNDS FOR HIRING 14 FIREFIGHTERS TO IMPROVE FIRE RESCUE SERVICE DELIVERY AND APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE ALL RELATED GRANT DOCUMENTS DURING TERM OF GRANT.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant was created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations in order to help them increase the number of trained, "front-line" firefighters available in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by NFPA and OSHA (NFPA 1710 and/or NFPA 1720 and OSHA 1910.134; and

WHEREAS, specifically, SAFER funds should assist local fire departments to increase their staffing and deployment capabilities in order to respond to emergencies whenever they may occur. As a result of the enhanced staffing, response times should be sufficiently reduced with an appropriate number of personnel assembled at the incident scene; and

WHEREAS, ultimately, a faster, safer and more efficient incident scene will be established and communities will have more adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards; and

WHEREAS, the hiring of firefighters activity involves a five-year grant to assist fire departments to pay a portion of the salaries of newly hired firefighters. These newly hired positions must be in addition to authorized and funded active firefighter positions; and

WHEREAS, grantees must do everything in their power to maintain the number of authorized and funded positions as declared at the time of application PLUS the awarded new firefighter positions throughout the period of performance (five years). Grantees that fail to maintain this level of staffing risk losing all or a portion of their grant; and

WHEREAS, these grants require the awardee to match an increasing proportion of the salary over a four-year period; in the fifth year of the grant, the awardee must absorb the entire cost of any positions awarded as a result of the grant; and

WHEREAS, Monroe County Fire Rescue had applied for grant funds for 14 firefighters, and in March of 2008, received notification of potential grant approval and needs a commitment from the Board of County Commissioners for the match portion of the grant in order to proceed further in the application process; and

WHEREAS, if the grant is awarded, it would be necessary for Monroe County to fund the county match portion from ad valorem sources, and/or through the adoption of a non-ad valorem fire assessment; and

WHEREAS, the federal grant portion total amount for five years of \$1,897,650, with the county match portion total amount for five years of \$3,584,219 with the annual breakdown as follows:

Description	FY09 Cost Per Position Including Loadings	FY09 #Positions to add	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	Totals
Federal Grant Portion			\$683,100	\$607,140	\$379,440	\$227,970	\$0	\$1,897,650
Monroe County Portion			\$270,146	\$412,833	\$711,931	\$939,797	\$1,249,511	\$3,584,219
Personnel - Firefighter/Paramedic (14)	\$68,089	14	\$953,246	\$1,019,973	\$1,091,371	\$1,167,767	\$1,249,511	\$5,481,869

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA, as follows:

1. Monroe County Fire Rescue is hereby authorized to enter into a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Agreement with U.S. Department of Homeland Security if awarded; and commit to the 5-year SAFER Grant Program requiring graduated County match funds for hiring 14 firefighters to improve fire rescue service delivery.
2. County funds necessary to meet the County portion of the grant will be appropriated and set aside for this purpose each year for the 5-year term of the grant.
3. The County Administrator is hereby authorized to execute all related grant documents during the term of the grant.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida at a regular meeting of said Board held on the _____ day of _____, A.D., 2008.

Mayor Charles McCoy _____
 Mayor Pro Tem Mario Di Gennaro _____
 Commissioner George Neugent _____
 Commissioner Dixie Spehar _____
 Commissioner Sylvia J. Murphy _____

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 OF MONROE COUNTY FLORIDA

(SEAL)
 Attest: DANNY L. KOLHAGE, Clerk
 By _____
 Deputy Clerk

By _____
 Mayor/Chairman

MONROE COUNTY ATTORNEY
 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Cynthia L. Hall
 CYNTHIA L. HALL
 ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY