



## Request for Council Action

**TO:** Mayor and City Council  
**THROUGH:** Tim Murray, City Administrator  
**FROM:** Dustin Dienst, Fire Chief  
**MEETING DATE:** February 23, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution 2021-038 Authorization to Apply for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (S.A.F.E.R.) Grant

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### **Background:**

The Faribault Fire Department is committed to and expected to provide a timely, effective and professional service to the people in our response district. The Department has a rich history of providing superior emergency response by utilizing the staffing model that I believe is the best model for a City and fire district of our size. The combination-staffing model employs both full-time firefighters and paid-on-call firefighters to provide service to our coverage area. This model is fiscally responsible without sacrificing precious response time.

As our City grows so does our workload and call volume. A vast majority of our calls are medical in nature. These calls do not require a large number of personnel but do require timely response. Adequate staffing is required in order to respond to every call in a timely manner. The addition of three full-time firefighters (one to each shift) has multiple advantages not only to emergency calls but also to all the other services that we deliver.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has a grant program to assist cities with fire department staffing. This grant is named the S.A.F.E.R. Grant. It stands for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response. I would like to apply for this grant to ease the budget impact of adding three full-time firefighters. This grant pays 100% of the wages earned by the three firefighters we are asking for. The grant is for a time period of three years.

### **Recommendation:**

Approve Resolution 2021-038, authorizing the Fire Department to apply for the SAFER grant for the addition of three full-time firefighters.

**Attachments:**

- Resolution 2021-038
- Grant Summary Form

**CITY OF FARIBAULT**

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**RESOLUTION #2021-038**

**AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR THE STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE (S.A.F.E.R.) GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, the Faribault Fire Department is responsible for fire and life safety response in the City of Faribault and the Rural Fire District; and

**WHEREAS**, our City is growing, resulting in an increased call volume along with other workload issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the addition of three full-time firefighters would greatly enhance the safety, efficiency and effectiveness of both our response to emergency calls and the overall service that we provide to our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has a grant program to assist municipalities financially with the adding of full-time firefighters to their departments.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Faribault Fire Department is authorized to apply for the S.A.F.E.R. grant for the addition of three full-time firefighters.

**Date Adopted:** February 23, 2021

**Faribault City Council**

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**Kevin F. Voracek, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**Timothy C. Murray, City Administrator**



**GRANT SUMMARY FORM**

Pre-Application  Application  Award Acceptance  Amendment

Department: Fire Department

Contact Person: Alex Bolster

Grant Name: S.A.F.E.R (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response)

Grantor: FEMA

Total Project Cost: \$ 915,680.00 Total Award Amount: \$ 915,680.00

Total Cash Match: \$ 0.00 Total In-Kind Match: \$ 0.00

Application Date: 03/09/21 Grant Period From 02/08/21 To 03/08/21

Funding Type (Federal, State, Other): Federal

CFDA Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Electronic or Hardcopy Submission: Electronic

**Project Description**

Hire three more Full-Time firefighters through the SAFER grant program. The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by the NFPA (NFPA 1710 and/or NFPA 1720). Faribault FD is not in compliance with NFPA 1710/1720 currently.

**How is the Match Amount Determined::**

FEMA- Safer Grant pays 100% of the wages for the firefighters for all three years of the grant.

Fixed Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ or % of project cost 100.00% or Other

**Explanation of Other:**

This is a 3 year grant period and FEMA pays 100% of the cost to employ these three firefighters.

For this City fiscal year, how much of the required local cash match amount is:

Already In Department Budget: \_\_\_\_\_ Not Budgeted: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Source of Match: No match needed.

Director Approval

Administrator Approval