

FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Narrative

This grant award will improve firefighter safety protection, eliminate out of service time and/or repair needs, comply with modern safety standards (National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1981 SCBA), increase capacity from 30 minute to 45 minute cylinder capacity, and decrease air alarm from 25% to 33%. This project will remove worn and damaged SCBA cylinders and back frames from service.

There is a critical need for SCBA equipment. The equipment currently in use was purchased in 2012 and is approaching the end of its useful life. Without this grant, HFD will be required to use their existing SCBA equipment which is on its third cycle. The replacement of the soon to be obsolete MSA Fire Hawk M7 would eliminate parts/service issues. Parts are harder to find such as spectacle kits and soft goods. The department has experienced significant down time due to repairs. Multiple broken back frames and other malfunctions of the SCBA's has added significant stress to the equipment budget. Parts are becoming difficult to find and three SCBA's are currently out of service listed as unrepairable. The SCBA cylinders have passed the last hydrostatic testing and are in compliance however we are beginning to see delamination of the cylinders raising the question of safety. The fire department has taken one cylinder out of service due to this and may have to decommission more.

With this purchase, the department will be able to upgrade its self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) equipment. The cost estimate for 28 SCBA units plus Command Software, sales tax and additional masks for COVID protection is \$385,857 and includes a 10% city match of \$35,078. HFD's financial need is consistent with the intent of the AFG program which is to provide critically needed resources that equip emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operational efficiencies and support community resilience. SCBA equipment exceeds HFD's budget with the exception of the required match from the General Fund that City Council voted to include.

The purchase of the new SCBAs will enhance injury prevention, life safety, and operating capacity by enhanced ergonomics of the SCBA itself; face pieces will have a wider field of view for firefighters, larger air capacity, and monitoring systems that allows command staff to monitor air consumption in real time and enhance emergency scene accountability. The updated SCBA equipment will meet current national standards that include universal fittings that provide supplemental air in the event of a firefighter down or rescue situation. This purchase will bring our SCBA equipment in compliance with current safety standards. Replacement of equipment nearing end of the life cycle will reduce malfunction risks and reduction of available units removed from service.