



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 24-00154

Agenda Date: 2/27/2024

Agenda Item Name:

2023 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – Mutual Aid Radio Communication (MARC) Unit Cache Replacement

Presenter:

Harold Theus, Fire Chief 325-384-3101

Description:

2023 SHSGP – MARC Unit Cache Replacement

Recommended Action:

Approve and sign the Grant Agreement, adopt the Resolution, approve the Budget Amendment, approve the Grant Agreement Point of Contact Information Update form from the State of Florida, Division of Emergency Management, and authorize an interfund loan not to exceed \$105,000.00.

Prior Board Motions:

N/A

Fiscal Note:

The Grant award is \$105,000.00 and does not require a local match. This is a reimbursement Grant that will require an interfund loan for cash flow purposes. The loan will be repaid as Grant funds are received.

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Strategic Guide:

Public Safety

Background:

Since 1999, Alachua County Fire Rescue has been the custodial agency of the tower/trailer and radio equipment used for emergency and non-emergency use in the State of Florida as part of the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement. The 2023 State Homeland Security Grant Program sub grant agreement will provide replacement of the current radio cache equipment. The grant award is \$105,000.00 and does not require a local match.

In response to a variety of communications problems encountered during incident response, the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association, the State Fire Marshal's Office, and the Florida Division of Forestry jointly received funding to establish and manage a radio communications program. The intent of the

program is to provide radio communications equipment for emergency incidents and non-emergency events in the State.

Tower/trailers, mobile and portable radios, repeaters, generators, and related cache equipment were purchased by the State and regionally positioned under the custodial responsibility of a fire department that was willing and able to provide the equipment upon request. Alachua County Fire Rescue was selected as a custodial agency and has provided that service since 1999.

The sub-grant agreement will continue to keep the MARC unit in an operational state, providing maintenance and sustainment, to be deployed as needed. In addition, the grant award will provide for equipment replacement. In exchange, Alachua County agrees to be ready and respond to activation orders for deployment by the State Emergency Operations Center. Typically, any expenditure incurred from deployment by Alachua County is reimbursed by the State or Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

There is no match requirement for this grant. However, funds received from the State Homeland Security Grant Program must be applied to those eligible activities as outlined in the Scope of Work of the Agreement. This is a cost-reimbursement Agreement, therefore necessitating authorization for an inter-fund loan not to exceed \$105,000.00.

The State of Florida recently made changes to signature requirements on grant documents which limited authorized individuals to the person executing the grant agreement unless otherwise designated. Staff recommends delegating this authority to County staff to facilitate grant reporting, modifications, etc. which are currently all authorized per County Policy and Procedure. The resolution and grant agreement point of contact information update form will designate a staff level authorized agent. All future resolutions related to State of Florida grants will include designating an individual as the authorized agent having signature authority.